The Daily and Weekly Commercial.—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a newspaper regularly from the Post-office—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

☞ REMITTANCES must be made in Money Orders, Bank Checks or Drafts, if possible. Which neither of these can be procured, send the Money in a Registered Letter. The present Registration system is virtually an Absolute Protection Against Losses by mail, and all Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so.

☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XII.—NO. 29. WEEKLY EDITION. MAY 29, 1875.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20, 1875.

The High-Toned Sioux.

The President is not entirely pleased with the language and demeanor of the Indian chiefs now here. Several of them, when at the White House yesterday, were quite insolent in their pretentions and demands. These Indians have evidently been tampered with by bad white men, and appear to think that they had only to ask for a thing to obtain it. Some of the Sioux chiefs who did not come on with the party, sent letters to the President to the effect that they wanted everything that white men use. The President will most likely refuse to grant another interview to any of the party until after they have settled with the Secretary of the Interior the business which brought them here. They seem to think that they are such big men that their business ought to be transacted immediately with the Great Father, but they will be undeceived as to this. Nothing will be done in the way of opening negotiations until the return of Secretary Delano to Washington.

Withdrawal of Troops from New Orleans.

It is understood that the withdrawal of the troops from New Orleans is in accordance with the opinions of Lieutenant General Sheridan and of Governor Kellogg that no further necessity exists for their presence. These troops are now on their way back to the West.

Protection of the Texan Border.

It is likely now that the Government will strengthen our forces on the Texan frontier in order to preserve more effectual quiet on that border. Shipments of arms for Texas have recently been made here from the Adjutant General's office.

Forgery of the President's Signature.

A discharged clerk in the Pension Bureau presented a few days ago to the Commissioner a request for his reinstatement, purporting to be signed by the President. The Commissioner doubted the genuineness of the signature and wrote to the President about it. To-day the President sent him word that his signature was a forgery. The man, on being confronted with the President's denial, asserted that he had paid a member of Congress ten dollars to procure the signature and supposed it was genuine. An investigation is to be made into the circumstances.

Spec al Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1875.

Troubles on the Mexican Border.

Mail advices received to-day from San Antonio, Texas, indicate the imminence of serious difficulties on the Mexican border. Cortina, the raider, is reported to have under his command a force estimated at between two and three thousand men. Several murders of American citizens are alleged to have been recently committed by them. It is thought that preparations are being made for a gigantic raid into the interior of Texas, further than which has not been yet stated. The opinion is growing here that our Government will have to adopt some very decisive and summary measures before peace and security can be established on the frontiers of Texas.

The Insolence of the Sioux.

The Indian chiefs here seem disposed to carry their insolence to the highest pitch, and the authorities are satisfied that the work of negotiating a treaty which they will be one of great difficulty. Red Cloud and Spotted Tail have united in a telegram to the Hereditary Chief of the Sioux to come on here, and when he arrives he will no doubt have a fresh batch of demands to make upon the Government. It seems that these Indians have for the last two years received large supplies to which they were not entitled by any treaty stipulations, and members of Congress now here, who have become acquainted with the fact, criticise severely the Indian Bureau in demanding to include such supplies in the estimates.

Grasshopper Ravages in the West.

Judging from the conversation of numerous persons lately arrived here from the West, it is safe to assume that the accounts of grasshopper ravages are very much exaggerated. It is said that the principal object in spreading these stories is to help the bills in Congress for the large quantity of the last year's crop being still on hand.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 24, 1875.

Kentucky Politics.

Influential Kentucky Republicans now in Washington express the hopefulness of reducing to a very small figure, if not entirely overcoming, the Democratic majority in that State at the approaching election. The course of the Democratic managers for several years past has tended very much to alienate the mass of the Democratic voters. This feeling of dissatisfaction has been very much intensified by the character of the nominations lately made and the unseemly struggle which is going on between the rival aspirants for the seat in the Senate now held by Mr. Stevenson.

Changes in Attorney General's Office.

Mr. Goforth, of Pennsylvania, Second Assistant Attorney General, has, in response to a request to that effect, tendered his resignation, and Thomas Simmons, of New York, a permanent clerk in Attorney General Pierrepont, has been appointed as his successor. The appointment of a successor to Mr. Hill, the First Assistant Attorney General, who enforced resignation took effect on the 15th inst., has not yet been made.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20, 1875.

LIST OF PATENTS.

A weekly list of United States patents issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio for the week ending May 20, 1875 (Patents dated May 4th.) Reported by telegraph expressly for the COMMERCIAL, by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, May Building, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

T. H. Anrocker, Philadelphia, Annunciator.
J. Gamard, Allegheny, Fire-place.
J. J. Marcy, Philadelphia, Magic Lantern.
T. Shaw, Philadelphia, Plug Valve.
G. Westinghouse, Jr., Pittsburgh, Governor.
W. Beck, Pittsburgh, Glass Press.
A. Isk, Lancaster, Kitchen Utensil.
J. M. Lafferty, Mansfield Valley, Extensible Coal Chute.
A. Marland, Pittsburgh, Manufacture of Hexagonal Nuts.
A. Marland and W. L. Lewis, Pittsburgh, Machine for Making Box Nuts.
A. Marland and W. L. Lewis, Pittsburgh, Machine for Making Piows.
J. McCurdy, Lock Haven, Pantaloons Block.
J. D. Patton, Treverton, Gas Purifier.
W. P. Patton, Harrisburg, Injector.
J. Walsh, Brownsville, Engine Governor.
H. G. Wood, Sharon, Rotary Engine.
J. G. Baader, St. Vincent, Car Coupler.
H. Bastian, Montoursville, Ladder.
T. Bingham, Pittsburgh, Air Pump.
G. F. Blasse, Philadelphia, Printer.
A. G. Buzby, Philadelphia, Magic Lantern.
E. Cundy, Philadelphia, Soap Holder.
J. Calloway, Philadelphia, Machine for Extirpating Earthenware.
C. Heisler and J. M. Deremer, Williamsport, Ice Cutting Machine.
D. Heston, Philadelphia, Shaving Mug.
A. F. King, Corry, Sectional Boiler.
M. H. Matsinger, Philadelphia, Door Check.
W. B. Pounds, Philadelphia, Gas Regulator.
J. Rhodes, Harrisburg, Car Starter.
C. J. Shain and G. L. Waitt, Philadelphia, Car Starter.
J. L. Stewart, Philadelphia, Petroleum Still.
F. D. Webster, Philadelphia, House Awning.
P. Wernl, Philadelphia, Lock for Doors.
Reissues—F. S. Bissel, Pittsburgh, Grate.
C. M. Crandall, Montrose, Toy Block.
Design—H. Ihienburg, Philadelphia, Printing Type.
Trade Mark—F. Brown, Philadelphia, Jamaica, Ginger.
McCullough Iron Co., Philadelphia, Galvanized Sheet Iron.
S. F. Shaes, Philadelphia, Soda Water.
G. R. Starkey, Philadelphia, Compound Oxygen Water.
G. Vold & Co., Philadelphia, Roasted Coffee.
D. Focht & Co., Philadelphia, Coffee.
G. C. Napheys, Philadelphia, Coffee.
Sykens Valley Coal Company, Wiconisco, Coal.
Mineral Railroad and Mining Company, Shamokin Coal.
Summit Branch Railroad Company, Williamstown, Coal.

OHIO.

S. M. Carpenter, Cleveland, Turn Table.
J. A. Scanitt, Columbus, Music Apparatus.
S. S. Warner, Akron, Insect Destroyer.
W. M. Davis, Cleveland, Locks and Safes.
J. A. Kleckner, Canton, Lightning Rod.
T. H. & J. H. McCall, Morristown, Protector.
W. Wells, Cleveland, Augur.
W. J. Boda, Dayton, Extension Table.
L. C. Goodale, Cincinnati, Show Card.
M. A. Griffith, Dayton, Screw Cutter.
W. K. Merrill, Cincinnati, Head Light.
G. S. Strong, Mt. Vernon, Earth Augur.
Reissues—D. O. Card, Rawsonville, Sleigh Beam.
S. L. Talcott, Ashtabula, Strap Loop.
J. L. Branson and A. Inergeas, Cincinnati, Spring Bed Bottom.
Design—E. W. Berry, Cincinnati, Fan.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 24, 1875.

THE FASTIDIOUS INDIANS.

Spotted Tail and Red Cloud have returned to the Tremont House. The six other Indians remain at the Washington House and assert that their rooms were too small at the Tremont House. Secretary Cowan notified the proprietor of the Washington House that the Government will pay no bills the Indians contract at that place. The Commissioner is absent in New York.

BENEFITS TO PRE-EMPTORS OF PUBLIC LANDS.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office decides that the benefits extended by law to pre-emptors who, by reason of the ravages of grasshoppers, are compelled to leave and be absent from their lands, may also be extended to pre-emptors whose crops have in like manner been destroyed but who have nevertheless continued their residence upon their respective claims. Those whose crops were destroyed or seriously injured in 1874 will be entitled to an extension of one year from and after July 1, 1875, and when the injury occurs in 1875 the extension will date from July 1, 1876.

MAIL SERVICE TO AND FROM NEW YORK.

Col. Scott has notified the Postmaster General that on and after the first day of June next, no trains of the Baltimore and Ohio road will be permitted to pass over his rails from Philadelphia to New York. The mail service to and from New York is now equally divided between the two corporations.

The Whisky Crusade—The Political Bearing of the Raid—Whisky in Politics—The Whisky Influence Under Andy Johnson—President Grant Prefers Honesty—He Does Not Consider the Perpetuation of the Whisky Ring the Perpetuation of the Republican Party—Pittsburgh Distilleries—Sherman's Memoirs.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17, 1875.

The revelations which have recently been made of the violation of the internal revenue laws, through the illicit distillation of spirits, have excited considerable comment among the friends of those who have interests to subserve, by winking at the prevalence and perpetuation of these frauds. Those who think that their political prospects depend upon the encouragement of this peculiar species of iniquity have set up quite a howl, and many have come here to intercede for their potential and influential constituents. Whisky may be the sinews of politics in some quarters, the same as money is generally the sinews of war; but illicit whisky has about the same relation to a successful political campaign that paper money has generally had to a warlike campaign; the success is transient; the reaction is worse than the advantage gained. At all events, the President has no idea that any damage will be done to the Republican party, though it may have that effect upon the Democratic party, by the suppression of illicit distillation, the protection of the revenues and the encouragement of honesty in this extensive industry. It will be remembered that at no time in the history of the Government was the revenue more notoriously and openly robbed of the duties on whisky than during the presidency of Andy Johnson. Then, judging from the proceeds of the tax, every distillery in the land was operated in the political interests of A. J., and the political combinations which his sycophants had flattered him, was to be a great triumph. Under these influences the manufacture of spirits was about one-fifth of its relation to seven-eighths for politics. It was a season of cheap liquor and congenial revelry among the Democrats and the Independents who had not yet been thoroughly weaned from their previous affiliations with Democratic institutions; but the strength of the Republican party remained intact, or if anything else, gained unity of action by the notorious delinquency of the administration. President Grant proposes to run his administration upon the basis of a strict observance of the laws and particularly the revenue laws, especially in view of the fact that among the cardinal principles which placed the Republican party in power in 1860, was Government reform and honest administration. The same principles combined with devotion to the Constitution and the laws have maintained the party in power, and if a few should undertake to demonstrate to the President that the perpetuation of the whisky ring is the perpetuation of the Republican party, is no compliment to the intelligence of the Chief Magistrate, nor no credit to the intelligence and honesty of the American people.

The decrease of the revenue both from customs and internal taxes has been a subject of serious consideration ever since the panic of 1873 and necessitated the increased taxation of the present Congress. For some time there has been no little suspicion of whisky establishments in various localities. It was feared that these supposed irregularities were successfully carried on in connivance with the officers of the Government at the points suspected. With this in mind the investigations were conducted by a special corps of detectives and agents unknown to both officers and distillers. The results thus far made public are but a portion of what are known to the department. The exposures already made, however, effectually dispose of the reflections which were passed upon the motives of the President in recommending the order transferring the supervision of internal revenue to districts different from those in which the frauds were operating. It was then alleged that the order of revocation issued by Secretary Bristow was brought about through the influence of several supervisors, notoriously McDonald and Munn, supported by certain political influences. It now appears that the real cause of the revocation was the design of the President, to perform this whole matter his personal supervision, not to destroy the work which had already been accomplished, but to allow matters to follow in their old train, until sufficient information was elicited to complete the chain of evidence which was to break up the nefarious business. This order of revocation, as a strategic movement, was perfect success. The delinquents now indulged in a double sense of security and prosecuted their iniquitous scheme with increased energy. While enjoying this fancied security the order of seizure was given.

Among the suspicious circumstances was the action of Supervisor McDonald. Previous to leaving this city for home, he had a very loud manner of dressing, and indulged in divers extravagances which occasioned no little comment. Subsequently he was said, was gratuitously employed in the Internal Revenue Bureau on a small salary. A year or two after his engagement by McDonald, it is said that the latter was frequently apparelled in seven thousand dollar diamonds and other visible indications of a sudden expansion of the domestic exchequer. These things caused a considerable amount of gossip in the small sphere in which the clerk figured before his departure for the golden opportunities before him on the western banks of the Mississippi. His former companions in the Internal Revenue Bureau were no further advanced than when their dashing companion had undertaken the responsible task to become a supervisor's clerk. They still enjoyed that state of chronic impecuniosity which afflicts the great mass of Government clerks. They still sat at their desks longing for the end of the month which brought, in the weary round of time, the day of pay. The recent denouement unravels a mystery to them and affords abundant food for spirited comment, and a revival and encouragement to many eccentricities of character which may have been visible in the humbler days of their fellow clerk's career.

It now remains to be seen what will be the result of the official crusade. Ex-Commissioner Douglass in his estimates calculated on a loss to the revenue of about five per cent. of the amount of spirits manufactured. Taking the aggregate product at sixty million gallons per annum five per cent. would make about three million gallons, or about eighty thousand barrels, which gets into the market and is consumed in various ways without paying taxes. It is generally believed here, in the way of compromise, inability to make out cases, and the many experiments which are reported to by parties having matters with the Government in litigation, that the yield of the recent and pending operations will be in very small proportion to the amount of *eclat* given to the seizures. Where the blow will strike more directly and effectually will be in the decapitation of the officers who have been delinquent in the performance of their duties.

Inquiry at the proper sources of information does not point to any serious offenses at Pittsburgh. The authorities say that they have evidence to show that, as a rule, the distillers in that section try to conduct their business honestly; that there are cases which will be looked into in common with the operations of the business in other quarters. What future developments may bring to light remains for the future to develope. The department is determined to carry out a most searching investigation.

The sensational press are still harping on the retirement of Secretary Delano. There is no evidence that Mr. Delano will leave the Cabinet at the end of the fiscal year, but on the contrary his retention there indefinitely, or as long as he wishes to remain, is at present assured by the expressions of the President and by surrounding circumstances. There is no doubt a strong feeling in the Cabinet about the action of Secretary Bristow in the matter of young Delano's transaction in the land surveying contract. No one can doubt but that young Delano had a perfect right to do what he did. He was not in office at the time, was in bad health, and on the recommendation of his physician went to enjoy the invigorating climate of Wyoming. Having no means to speak of, his friends offered him this employment. This is the whole story of the serious charges pending against the Secretary of the Interior. They are, perhaps, about as near the truth as the sensational newspapers usually get.

The Memoirs of General Sherman have stirred up things of military and political quarters in this region. Logan is particularly worked up about the assertion that he, political general, an assertion which he thinks is a reflection upon his military skill and bravery. Other quarters are also considerably exercised, and we may look for some spirited personal reminiscences from the higher ranks of the army in the late war as the outgrowth of Sherman's literary effort. It is believed by many that the bringing out of this book at this time has a political bearing in the direction of the Presidential question.

DEB. R. K.

A large rotary boiler in the Franklin Paper Mill, at Franklin, Ohio, exploded yesterday afternoon, completely destroying the building in which the boiler was, and severely injuring Parry French, W. Ross and Celia Maley. The damage to the company is about $6,000.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

Wholesale Conflagrations on the Tyrone and Clearfield Railroad.

TWO HUNDRED HOUSES AT OSCEOLA BURNT.

TWELVE HUNDRED PEOPLE WITHOUT HOMES.

Several Mills and Thirty Million Feet of Lumber Destroyed----Loss Two Million Dollars.

HOUTZDALE, CLEARFIELD COUNTY, ABANDONED TO THE FLAMES.

SERIOUS LOSS TO COAL OPERATORS AT THE SNOW SHOE MINES.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY MOUNTAINS ON FIRE.

Damage to Property in Middleport and Gilberton.

Mahanoy City, Mahanoy Plane and Maizeville Threatened.

Desperate Attempts by Incendiaries to Burn Shenandoah.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

TYRONE, PA., May 20, 1875.

Fires have been raging to-day at several points along the Tyrone and Clearfield branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. At this hour, 4 P. M., but thirty-five houses are left standing in Osceola, Clearfield county. The Western Union Telegraph office is burnt and we have no communication with that place. The fire was still burning at last accounts. About one million feet of lumber is destroyed there. The division foreman's shop, at Eliet's siding, a warehouse, two pile bridges and the Howe truss bridge over the Moshannon branch and ties for several miles are among the losses to the railroad company. Ellis & Co. and Elliott's lumber yard, at Osceola, are destroyed. The mill blew a gale and the devastation is tearful. Engines were sent from this place to Osceola.

6:40, P. M. It is reported that the town of Houtzdale, Clearfield county, is burned; also several mills on the Moshannon branch.

7:30, P. M. The mills of Hooper, Haines & Co., and Hoover, Humes & Co., north of Phillipsburg, Centre county, are gone. The fire seems to be raging through the timber land.

TYRONE, May 20.—A fire broke out at eleven o'clock this morning at the Moshannon Lumber Company's mill, south of Osceola. Fifteen million feet of lumber was burned. The wind was so strong that fire-brands two feet long were carried to the principal parts of the town of Osceola. Fires broke out in every quarter. All the public buildings, except the Catholic and Methodist churches, were burned. About two hundred houses are destroyed, and twelve hundred people are houseless. The people were driven to the race-course, where they were surrounded by fire on all sides. The fire department of this place left at two o'clock, with their steamer and hose carriage, but could not reach Osceola, on account of the railroad tracks being burned. The road between Osceola and Powelton, on either side, is one blaze of fire. Members of a Tyrone company fought their way through and rendered all the assistance possible. About twenty houses are standing yet. Some half dozen were burned in Houtzdale and Powelton. The latter place was not destroyed.

Sheriff McPherson left Houtzdale at 4 o'clock P. M. The reports at that hour were that fourteen houses were burned there and the conflagration raging terribly. There was no escape for the town, every communication being cut off by fire through the woods. At this writing Hoover and Humes, Taylor's, Mashannon Lumber Company's, Hill's Big Beill and Elliot's and Caldwell's lumber saw mills, at Crawford's new foundry, and about 30,000,000 feet of lumber are destroyed at Osceola. The total loss is about $2,000,000. The insurance is generally very light. No lives were lost in the last report. The people are in destitute circumstances, they having lost their property and everything else. The miners who were on strike are reported as working diligently to save Houtzdale. The woods between Tyrone and Phillipsburg are on fire.

BALTIMORE, Pa., May 20.—An extra train left here this evening for Snowshoe, with a large body of men from Valentine's works to aid in checking the fires in that region. Mine No. 4, belonging to the second vein coal company, is reported to be burned. About seventy-five feet of the trestle work of the railroad has been destroyed. Water tanks and several buildings along the road are on fire, and great excitement prevails.

Later.—About thirteen cars have been burned at Snowshoe, and about eighty or one hundred tons of coal and all the houses about the mines are destroyed. Crider's mill and a large lot of lumber are destroyed, also a lot of timber belonging to the Bellefonte Car Works.

TYRONE, May 21.—The confusion is so great, and the telegraph line so busy with railroad business, that it is impossible to get much further particulars about the fires. At Osceola hundreds of people are homeless and destitute of clothing and provisions. The Burgess of Huntingdon was telegraphed to this morning for food and clothing for the sufferers. Relief is badly needed. A large number of cars and many feet of trestle-work on the railraad have been destroyed. The shipment of coal will be delayed for at least ten days. The total insurance is reported to amount to nearly $100,000. The fire is raging in the woods at Snow Shoe City, where several houses, a number of cars and trestle work are destroyed.

OSCEOLA, May 21.—The insurance of the Masshannon Land and Lumber Co., whose property was destroyed yesterday, amounts to $185,000, in Eastern and foreign companies.

TYRONE, May 21.—The fire is still raging furiously throughout the woods in the neighborhood of Osceola Mills, Pa. About 250 houses were consumed in Osceola, and 400 families rendered homeless. Great praise is due to Mr. D. D. Wood, trainmaster of Tyrone, who, through his heroic conduct and presence of mind, saved a great many lives. He got the people together after loading them with men, women and children, sent them through the burning forest at an extremely fast speed to Philipsburg, a distance of twelve miles, and the about 1,000 people taken to a place of safety. Houtzdale, a town of about 900 inhabitants, six miles from Osceola, is reported entirely destroyed. The fire is spreading rapidly through the woods beyond Houtzdale, and at the latest accounts had reached Parsonville, a small town six miles distant from Houtzdale. The mills and the Pennsylvania Railroad track, from Osceola to Houtzdale, are burned so that no coal can be shipped for some time. Provisions have been sent from this place in response to a call from the Burgess of Osceola, and a meeting is to be held to raise funds for the sufferers. Later reports say that one woman named Stoneberger was burned to death.

TYRONE, May 23.—At Osceola the destruction and desolation are very much greater than has been reported. Nine-tenths of the town has been burned, leaving scarcely enough ashes to mark where the houses stood. In the midst of the conflagration believed to have been set by plying their trade, breaking into trunks and appropriating to themselves sundry articles of value. Money and clothing are needed, and the supply of food will have to be kept up for a time. A special police force is on duty. To the credit of the miners, even the violent strikers worked like heroes to save the coal chutes and the improvements connected therewith, none of which have been damaged. The railroad will be repaired so as to bring out coal by morning. Reports received here this evening describe the fire around Osceola and Philipsburg as nearly out.

FIRES IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

POTTSVILLE, May 20.—This morning an attempt was made to burn Shenandoah. At Rile's Hotel it was discovered that coal oil and lighted matches had been thrown into the rooms. In a few minutes after the above discovery was made. A second alarm was sounded in another direction, and a dwelling house and carpenter shop was burnt to the ground, which he thinks is a reflection upon his military skill and bravery. Other quarters are also considerably exercised, and we may look for some spirited personal reminiscences from the higher ranks of the army in the late war as the outgrowth of Sherman's literary effort. It is believed by many that the bringing out of this book at this time has a political bearing in the direction of the Presidential question.

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FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

GERMANY SKIRMISHING IN BELGIUM.

LONDON, May 21.—A special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* reports that the German Ambassador at Brussels has been instructed to request the Belgian Government to prohibit religious processions, and that the object of this maneuver is the overthrow of the Belgian Cabinet. The correspondent guarantees the accuracy of the report.

DISRAELI'S RESIGNATION RUMORED.

LONDON, May 21.—The *Examiner* mentions a rumor that Disraeli is to resign at the close of the session, and believes there is foundation for it, as the Premier's disability for continuous work is damaging the Government. An understanding, however, exists among his supporters that he shall not be replaced until he voluntarily resigns.

SEVENTY-SIX CATHOLIC PILGRIMS DROWNED IN AUSTRIA.

LONDON, May 24.—A dispatch to the *Times* says a dreadful accident occurred on the river Mür, at the town of Judenburg, province of Styria, Austria. A ferryboat having a number of Catholic pilgrims *en route* to visit the shrines on the other side of the Mur from Judenburg, sunk in the middle of the stream. Fifty-nine of the pilgrims were saved, but seventy-six are missing, all of whom are believed to be drowned.

THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERFERENCE BETWEEN GERMANY AND FRANCE.

LONDON, May 24.—In the House of Commons, to-day, Disraeli, replying to a question put by the Marquis of Hartington, said it was true that the Government had advised the Queen to make representations to Germany respecting the relations between that power and France. These representations had been made, and were of such a nature as to correct misconceptions and insure peace. England had received a satisfactory reply, but it would not be to the public convenience to lay a copy of the correspondence on the table of the House.

Germany.

THE DUCHESNE CONSPIRACY.

BERLIN, May 22.—The action of the Belgian tribunal at Liege, in dismissing the charges against Duchesne of plotting to assassinate Bismarck, causes a sensation here. It is generally believed that the finding of the tribunal will not be regarded by Germany as a settlement of the matter.

THE PRUSSIAN DIET.

The Upper House of the Diet to-day passed a bill abrogating articles 15, 16 and 18 of the Constitution, regulating the relations between the Church and State in Prussia. The vote was 68 to 25.

Belgium

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION BROKEN UP.

BRUSSELS, May 23.—As a religious procession was passing through the streets to-day, it was assailed by the populace and its ranks broken up. Police, with drawn swords, charged on the rioters, ten of whom were arrested. Members of the procession took refuge in the neighboring houses.

Spain

IMPORTANT POLITICAL MEETING—RESIGNATION OF GENERAL ECHAGUES.

MADRID, May 23.—An important political meeting has been held here. It was attended by nearly six hundred gentlemen who have held seats in the Cortes. A resolution was unanimously adopted that on the opening of the next Cortes a constitution shall be submitted, formed on a basis to comprise all monarchical and liberal parties. The resolution urges the spirit of charity and Christian forgiveness which we trust the people whom we represent will exercise toward anything to which they may object in the proceedings of the Southern Assembly." To this Rev. Mr. Bonne replies: "That the grievances of which we complain, and which we desire to see redressed, are wholly out of the present, and an adjustment which entirely ignores the past is unsatisfactory." This virtually closes the controversy.

ST. LOUIS, May 22.—In the Presbyterian General Assembly, to-day, the report of the Trustees of the Assembly was read and referred to a special committee. The Trustees have elected James Hemphill President, Rev. John Douglass Vice President, and Jesse H. Lindsey Secretary and Treasurer. The report on education was read and referred. The committee have received over $15,000 during the year; the strike of the Freedmen's Bureau, $3,500, number of candidates for the ministry, 175. The report of the Committee on Publications was presented. The committee received $15,000 in church contributions; $3,400 from sales of merchandise; $5,500 from other sources; disbursements, $24,000. The committee's endowment fund amounts to $30,000.

Savannah, Ga., was selected as the place for the meeting of the next General Assembly.

Rev. James P. Logan, of Illinois, delegate from the Cumberland Presbyterian Assembly now in session at Jefferson, Texas, addressed the Assembly and was replied to by the Moderator, Dr. Hoge.

THE MAYORALTY CASE.

Judge Wickham, of the Circuit Court, on petition of counsel of Mayor Britton, granted a temporary injunction this evening restraining the Board of Aldermen by counsel of Henry Overstolz to dissolve the injunction, and an argument will be heard before a full bench next week. Pending the decision of the case no further action will be taken in the contest for the Mayoralty.

ST. LOUIS, May 24.—In the Southern Presbyterian General Assembly to-day, almost the entire session was taken up in the discussion of what is known as the "Wilson case," being the complaint of J. S. Cooke & others to the Louisville Presbytery regarding Rev. S. R. Wilson and his congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Louisville. The Judicial Committee made a lengthy report on the subject, and without discussing the merits of the case advised the Assembly to remand it back to the Louisville Presbytery with an injunction to that body to revise the whole case under certain rulings by the General Assembly as to the constitutional points. Rev. R. McNair offered a resolution to order the whole case be submitted to a commission of nine members of the Assembly, with instructions to thoroughly investigate the difficulty and report to the Assembly. Another resolution was offered referring the report back to the commissioners, with instructions to examine the case and recommend specific action on the part of the Assembly. A lengthy debate ensued on these resolutions, participated in by most of the prominent members of the Assembly. Finally both resolutions were laid on the table and the complaint of J. J. Cooke against the Louisville Presbytery read by the Moderator, after which the Assembly adjourned till to-morrow morning, when it will adjourn sine die.

WEST VIRGINIA.

State Capital Imbroglio—The Injunction Dissolved, with Nine Days of Grace—The Governor Attempts to Remove the Archives, but is Prevented by the Court—State Officers Leave for Wheeling.

WHEELING, May 20.—The *Register's* Charlestown, West Virginia, special says: Judge Smith dissolved the injunction yesterday, but allows nine days for appeal. Appeal papers were prepared, and counsel left this morning for Point Pleasant, where an application was made to Judge Moore for an appeal. This morning the Sheriff arrested the draymen engaged, by order of Governor Jacobs, in moving the State property. The Governor put him to work again. The Sheriff rearrested him, took him before the court and required him to submit to process, which he did. Application was then made for a rule for contempt against Governor Jacobs, pending which Judge Smith addressed a private note to him requesting his presence, and saying that his non-compliance would necessitate proceedings against him. The Governor replied, denying the authority of the court, and protested against its interfering with his removing the archives. Judge Smith rejoined declaring his purpose to maintain the injunction and insisting on the Governor's responsibility to the court. The final reply of the Governor was to the effect that he would stop removing the public property and hold the court responsible for its safe keeping. The State officers will leave for Wheeling to-morrow, leaving the records here. The court refuses to take possession of them. The case will probably go to the Court of Appeals.

WHEELING, May 21.—A special to the *Standard* from Charlestown says Governor Jacobs and other officers and clerks of the State left that city to-day at one P. M. for Wheeling. They left all books, papers, &c., in Judge Smith's custody, as per injunction. No disturbance was manifested at their departure. If no accident occurs the Governor and State officers should reach this city to-morrow evening. Judge Moore has granted the appeal of the Charlestownites in the injunction case.

CLEVELAND.

Proceedings of Presbyterian General Assembly—The Papists and the School Laws.

CLEVELAND, May 21.—The Presbyterian General Assembly met at nine o'clock this morning. After devotional exercises, the Moderator announced the Standing Committee. The Committee of Arrangements reported the programme for the sessions, which was adopted. Synodical records were then received, and the remainder of the session was occupied in discussing the question of mileage.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, May 22.—The Presbyterian General Assembly met this morning at nine o'clock. After devotional exercises and routine business, Rev. J. S. Noble, of New Jersey, introduced the following resolution which was referred to committee.

Resolved, That the continuous, persistent and repeated efforts made by the Papists throughout the country, under the tutelage, direction and advice of the papal hierarchy, to obtain control of the school funds in the several States of the Union, or to have a portion of the said school funds diverted from the legal and legitimate uses to which said funds are pledged in order to devote the money to the support of the papistical schools, demand from all Protestant Christians, of every denomination, and every citizen of the United States opposed to a union of Church and State, a resolute, determined and combined effort and unceasing watchfulness to prevent the success of the insidious attempts now being made in all sections of the country by the adherents of the papacy to secure the control of the school money; and it is hereby recommended by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church that all attempts to subvert our school laws or divert any portion of the various school funds in any of the States in the Union to or for the use of any church or sect, should be resisted and prevented by all legal and honorable means.

Resolved, That the outcry of the papal hierarchy against what they call "our godless schools" can, with far more justice and greater propriety, be applied to the schools set up by have instituted. In the common schools of our country the pure Word of God is read without comment, while in the papistical schools the Bible is excluded and the dogmas and traditions of men are substituted for the commandments of God.

The remainder of the morning session was occupied in considering the report of the Committee on Work among the Freedmen of the South.

The afternoon session of the Assembly was devoted to devotional exercises, the baptism the Holy Spirit in the Church and her works being the theme of prayer and remarks.

CLEVELAND, May 24.—The Presbyterian General Assembly met this morning at nine o'clock. After the usual devotional exercises and the transaction of routine business, Rev. D. E. Mansfield, of Cincinnati, asked to be relieved from service on the Special Committee on Reduced Representation. The request was granted and Hon. J. K. Findley, of Philadelphia, was elected to fill the vacancy. The Finance Committee reported that the books, and audited all the accounts submitted to them and found them all properly audited and the correct report was adopted. The rest of the morning session was occupied in discussing the report of the Committee on Theological Education. The report was finally adopted.

The Assembly met at two o'clock this afternoon. After prayer, a committee of five was appointed to which committee overtures are to be referred, making it requisite that any particular church to elect ruling elders for a limited time.

The committee appointed at the last session to confer with a similar committee from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, on coming out of the church, at half-past three o'clock, her aunt remained in the vestibule about ten minutes conversing with some friends, and on starting home missed the child, who a few minutes before was at her side. At first it was supposed that she had gone back into the church, but when she was not found inside and persons outside declared she had not come out, the aunt became alarmed and a search was commenced in every direction. About four o'clock some ladies at an open window across the street heard faint cries of a child, apparently from the vacant lot, and noticed an unusual commotion among the doves that swarmed in and out of the window. Some young man who had joined in the search, started to ascend the tower. They found the door leading up from the organ loft locked, and on forcing it open were shocked at fresh blood upon the floor and steps leading up to the next landing. They also found a strip of board covered with blood at one end, and heard low moaning sounds from above. Following along the steep flight of stairs and raising the scuttle, which resisted the strength of the strongest man, they found the body of the child lying near the edge of the scuttle, as though it had been carried up the steps and hastily thrown down there. Instantly they carried her down into the church, where a large number of persons had congregated, and into the presence of her agonized friends. From top of the tower, which was broken in, blood and brains were slowly oozing, while the nose was crushed in and the face terribly mangled. She was carried to her grandfather's residence and surgeons were at once summoned, who pronounced the case hopeless, and her death is a question of but a few hours at the furthest. Thomas Piper, who has been in charge of the church for about a year, was soon after arrested, and is now confined at Chief's office. He was engaged at work about the church, but his suspicious manner and his denial that he had the keys, when the two keys fitting the doors to the tower were taken from his person, point unerringly to him as the guilty party. He is a dark heavy-set man, about twenty-six years old, and has once before been under suspicion of murder, but was discharged for want of sufficient evidence. Many of the police still believe him guilty of the murder of a young girl in the Dorchester district about fifteen months since. This last affair has caused a profound sensation in the community, and intense excitement prevails. The very loftiness of the affair lends additional horror to it. Scarcely three quarters of an hour elapsed from the time the child came out of the vestibule of the church until she was found in a dying condition. How she was enticed away, and for what motive, has not transpired.

PHILADELPHIA.

Meeting of Centennial Commission.

PHILADELPHIA, May 21.—The United States Centennial Commission met this morning and elected officers. Commissioner Matthews, of Illinois, chairman of the Committee on opening ceremonies, recommends appropriate ceremonies on the opening and close of the Exhibition, and on the Fourth of July. A partial programme is as follows: President of the Day, the President of the United States; Chaplain—Chaplain, of the United States Senate; Orator—Francis Adams, of Massachusetts, and Lucius D. C. Lamar, of Mississippi; Poet—Henry W. Longfellow, of Massachusetts; Reader of Declaration of Independence—Ralph Waldo Emerson, of Massachusetts; Grand Marshal—General W. T. Sherman; Master of Ceremonies—General Joseph E. Johnson, of Georgia. The Commission then adjourned until to-morrow morning, when it will adjourn finally.

SCRANTON.

Forest Fires Extinguished by Rain.

SCRANTON, May 23.—A drenching rain visited this section yesterday, completely extinguishing the forest fires on Moosic Highlands and in the woods around Moscow, Daleville, Tobyhanna and other towns along the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.

Pennsylvania Forest Fires.

NEW YORK, May 24.—Lackawaxen, Pa., dispatches state that the rains on Friday and Saturday nights were not heavy enough to wet the forests and underbrush sufficiently, and that fires again broke out on Sunday in several places, threatening more damage. But little is actually known as to the real amount of destruction, as there are hundreds of isolated settlements and hundreds of miles in Pike, Wayne, Sullivan and Monroe counties where the fires have been raging. The tract of land on Taylor's creek, formerly owned by Horace Greeley, and the site of the old Fourrerite community was swept of everything. Bears, deer, wild pigeons and all kinds of game have been driven by the fires on Peons' range into inclosures with the tame cattle, and around the settlements in the region of the Lackawanna over one hundred miles of forest have been burned. It is now feared the fire will again gain headway as the wood now standing is as dry as tinder.

At Shippburg, Pennsylvania, dispatch says: The welcome rain began last night, relieving the fears of the residents in the thickly wooded section at Osceola. Yesterday 1,000 rations were issued to the destitute. The town was full of sightseers. The Moshannon Branch Railroad was temporarily repaired on Saturday, sufficiently to allow trains to pass, and the coal shipping will probably be resumed to-day. One of the greatest needs of the people is feed for

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1875.

Republican State Nominations.

FOR GOVERNOR,
JOHN F. HARTRANFT.
FOR STATE TREASURER.
HENRY RAWLE.

OUR TICKET.

Far more than ordinary interest attaches to the proceedings of the Republican State Convention held at Lancaster on Thursday. The fact that Pennsylvania is the first of the great States to make a formal declaration of political faith during the year which immediately precedes the next Presidential struggle, gives to its deliverances a peculiarly representative character of Republican sentiment, and the effect will doubtless be powerfully apparent in Ohio and other States, as well as in the greater contest of 1876.

The Convention performed its work well. The platform (elsewhere printed) is as sound as heart of oak. There are no glittering and unmeaning generalities in it. It is hewn squarely to the line, declaring, with almost epigrammatic brevity and clearness, whatsoever was necessary to be declared. The fundamental questions relative to the unity of the Nation, the harmony of the General and State governments and the rights of the people under them, are set forth with the utmost explicitness in a trio of three-line resolutions.

The anti-third term resolution merely gives expression to the overwhelming sentiment of Republicans everywhere. Such commendation as properly belongs to the Administration for its wise and patriotic administration of public affairs during the past six years is cheerfully given, but the Democratic hobgoblin of "Cæsarism" is laid peremptorily and forever at rest. In this, as in other matters, honesty is unquestionably the best policy, and we have not the slightest doubt that this straightforward expression of the genuine feeling of the Republicans of Pennsylvania will be found to have voiced the sentiment of the entire party.

So, too, the hearty indorsement given to the efforts of the Government to expose and punish the whisky and other frauds, and to collect the full revenues of the country, will be hailed with equally widespread satisfaction. The Republican cause is the cause of good government, and the purification of the public service will never be accomplished except through its agency.

On the important questions of finance, public economy, salaries to officers, cheap transportation and protection to our home industries, the platform is equally direct and comprehensive, as also with regard to the public lands' question, the just claims of our soldiers and sailors upon the Government, and, above all else, the prime necessity of having honest men in office to execute and administer the public trusts. We commend the platform to careful consideration. It is creamy, and will bear more than one skimming.

The enthusiastically unanimous renomination of Governor HARTRANFT was a foregone conclusion. As eminently qualified, morally and intellectually, for the successful discharge of the duties of his exalted office as he was basely maligned and hounded by the opposition upon his former nomination, the emphatic mark of confidence and appreciation he has now received was nothing more than his due. Every assault then made upon his character has proved to be utterly false. His whole conduct in the Gubernatorial chair has been such as to silence his enemies, and win the applause of all good men. Vindicated to the utmost alike as respects his integrity and his capability, the opposition is left absolutely ammunitionless regarding him. It is to be hoped the lesson may be properly laid to heart.

Major RAWLE, the candidate for the State Treasurership, is by early and later training conspicuously fitted to fill the office to which he has been nominated. Born in the ranks of labor, and largely identified with the industrial interests of the Commonwealth, possessing extensive and varied financal experience, wealthy enough to place him far beyond the reach of pecuniary temptations, and honest enough in any event to resist them to the end, he will receive the cordial and united support of the party, and come out crowned with victory at the end of the campaign. Even the Philadelphia *Times*, bitterly as it hates the Republican party, and earnestly as it will labor for the defeat of the ticket, is compelled to admit that both "JOHN F. HARTRANFT and HENRY RAWLE" are "blameless enough to brave the assaults of a campaign."

An auspicious omen is that the proceedings of the Convention were marked with the utmost harmony. It reminds one more of the regular old-fashioned Republican feasts than any that have been held for years. The drubbing we received last year has done us good by destroying that factious spirit which has heretofore tended to discourage and divide our ranks; and when the fatal facility which the Democracy of the State have during the past year shown for stupidity, mismanagement and corruption—the utter incapacity of the party for anything approaching statesmanship—and its swift haste to revive the old evil habits and practices which formerly brought it into disgrace are taken into consideration, the most sanguine expectations of the triumphant success of our cause and its candidates may justly be entertained.

IT IS estimated that the internal revenue receipts for the current month will reach as high as eleven million dollars. This is a gratifying prospect.

THE insurance on property destroyed in the late terrible conflagration at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, has nearly all been paid, and arrangements are making for the erection of a large number of brick blocks.

IT MAY possibly be of interest to some persons hereabout to know that illicit whisky found is subject to confiscation, even if in honest dealers' hands, and if the owner is known to be innocent, while the penalty is twice the amount of the tax.

THE Supreme Court of Indiana has just decided that a railroad company's contract, as a common carrier, in avoidance of its common-law liability, must be strictly construed against it, and that it can take no exemption which is not clearly contracted for.

GOOD progress has been made in converting our six per cent. into five per cent. bonds. Of the five hundred millions authorized to be thus converted, only eighty-seven millions remain to be placed, and it is supposed that the ROTHSCHILDS syndicate will take this remainder during the present year. This success is a gratifying evidence of our creditable monetary status at home and abroad.

THE New York *Times* publishes reports from a number of Eastern and Southern points, showing that, in spite of the backwardness of the season, the prospect for a large yield of fruit is very favorable. The Delaware orchards, although about two weeks behind time, are said to present a more encouraging appearance than they have for many years past. The statements from New Jersey are also cheerful, and the tidings from Maryland, Virginia and Tennessee are of a like promising character. In Western localities, too, the damage wrought by the frost does not appear to have been nearly so serious as was at first feared.

DURING the late session of the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church, in Chicago, but one clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church was found to extend the hand of fellowship to the organization, and to sanction its proceedings by his presence. The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Reformed Dutch Church, and the Presbyterians and Baptists, on the other hand, hastened to extend invitations for the entertainment of various delegates, and bade several of them a cordial welcome to their pulpits. People now-a-days are quick to discern the exhibition of a true spirit of Christian charity in religious bodies, and to honor the men who forget their creed in their courtesies.

THE New York *Times* gives the particulars of a case recently decided in the English Courts, which very clearly defines the rights of "strikers" and the limits where the functions of trades unions cease. Heretofore no legal decision upon the precise point at issue has been reached, and thus the judgment becomes of great importance as a precedent for the guidance of workingmen. The facts of the case are, briefly, that the employees of a certain manufacturing company in London having struck, the firm obtained other hands, whereupon the strikers, through their association, had recourse to pickets, placing a number of men outside in the streets to watch the shops, waylay the workmen as they went to and from their work, and try to persuade them to leave. They continued the system for three months with great perseverance but poor success, and at last, the matter having become a great annoyance, the company caused the arrest of five of the leaders, charging them with conspiring to molest workmen, with intent to induce them to leave their employment, and to coerce employers to cease to employ the workmen in question. The trial lasted two days, and the prisoners were ably defended. It was shown that no violence was offered; only once was there any semblance of threatening language employed, and that was so slight, if not questionable, that the prosecution laid no stress upon it. The course of the defendants had been limited strictly to waiting for the workmen, and endeavoring to persuade them to follow their example, and strike. The judge before whom the case was tried, however, pointed out that in cases of conspiracy the offense lay in the agreement to do a certain thing, and not in the doing of it; while any molestation or obstruction offered to a person with a view to coerce him—if a working man, to quit his employment, or if a master, to alter his mode of carrying on his own business—was an offense at law. Picketing might not be unlawful under certain circumstances, but it certainly is when carried on in such a manner and to such a degree that it might be expected to influence other persons to the extent of annoyance, or loss. The jury found all the defendants guilty. Speaking of the result of the trial, the *Times* says—and its observations apply equally to the United States as to England:

"This trial will probably prove highly beneficial to all persons immediately affected by the customary policy of trades unions, and indirectly, of course, to the public generally. But it should be more particularly useful to the working classes themselves, as drawing an exact line at the place where their combinations must cease to influence the labor market. In plain English, an unwarrantable assertion of the doctrine we have often upheld, that workingmen may do as they like with their own labor, so far as selling it or not selling it at any price, but they have no right whatever to interfere in any way with the price at which other people may choose to dispose of theirs, so as to force them into altering their own individual terms. If the several unions would only recognize this principle, they would confer a benefit on their own members, and at the same time have some claim upon the sympathy of society at large; but so long as they continue to insist upon rights which do not belong to them, they must expect to find themselves, oftener than hitherto, in collision with the machinery of the law."

A FEW days ago, as our readers are aware, the Presbyterian General Assembly North, now in session at Cleveland, Ohio, renewed its former overtures for fraternal relations with the Southern Presbyterian Church, by declaring "that all acts and declarations of both bodies now forming the Presbyterian Church before their union, reflecting injuriously upon the Christian character of the Presbyterian Church South, be and are hereby declared inoperative and void, and that the Church complaining is hereby relieved of all such grievances under which they have been laboring." This did not satisfy the General Assembly of the latter body, now in session at St. Louis, who required, in effect, through their committee, that the Northern Presbyterians should confess to a grievous error and sin in having denounced the miserable heresy that it was the duty of the Church to uphold, defend and perpetuate treason and slavery, instead of protesting against them. This was to have been expected, judging from the exalted Christian patriotism of the Northern Church during the war, its General Assembly by an overwhelming majority refused to accede to this outrageous ultimatum. The breach between these two great branches of that Church, therefore, remains still unhealed—all for the reason that the Northern element refuse to admit that its course during the rebellion was wrong, that the South was justified in seceding from the Union, and that the destroyed institution of slavery was really a creation of the divine Will. What kind of religion is that of which this spirit is an exemplification?

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Mr. Sartoris has just purchased a fine building lot in Washington city.

Red Cloud agrees with Solomon. He said in his wrath that all men were liars.

The National Conference of the Methodist Church is in session at Princeton, Illinois.

You that have flowers, prepare to share them now. Decoration day is close at hand.

The grasshoppers have landed in Illinois and a loud cry of alarm is wafted on the breeze.

Of whisky detained in the various cities by the Treasury about four-fifths is proving illicit.

Jeff. Davis will probably accept the Presidency of the Agricultural College at Bryan, Texas.

Virginia wails that the advance guard of the dreaded 'hopper has made its appearance in that State.

The quantity of lobsters taken in the Canadian fisheries amounts to about eight million cans annually.

The St. Louis *Times* wants some action taken by Missouri to utilize its immense natural sumac product.

To-day Paul Boyton makes another effort to cross the English channel. Successfully may he wave.

A rugged writer in *Scribner* for June advocates the introduction of rugs in place of carpets in our houses.

Iowa has the narrow gauge fever so bad that the poets and musicians have framed it in verse and set it to music.

Nearly three thousand people of Idaho are in Sayre. That is about the population of the town so called.

"A bridal veil just invented by a Russian gives the bride the appearance of an angel, wings and all." Shoo! Fly!

The Potomac fishermen have had scaly luck this season, the yield being estimated at less than one-third the usual average.

"Godless schools," that is to say, schools without a priest, are rapidly growing in favor in the Catholic countries of Europe.

Thus far this year the number of immigrants arriving at New York is 16,000 less than for the corresponding period last year.

Old Sol is beginning to indulge in paroxysmal kissing. Several sunstrokes are reported from different parts of the country.

Owen Brown, one of the sons of "Old John Brown," is the custodian of Jay Cooke's otherwise untenanted castle at Put-in-Bay.

Recent experiments in hatching shad show that the eggs will not hatch in brackish or salt water; also that such waters are fatal to the young fry.

The Legislature of British Columbia has disfranchised the Indian and Chinese inhabitants of the colony. White ignoramuses were not embraced.

Jeff Davis gives it as his opinion that Texas is the only Southern State wherein "every prospect pleases" just now. Is that because "only man is vile?"

The mysteries and miseries of a great city. Since the first of May the bodies of eleven unknown persons have been taken from the rivers in New York.

A national convention of spiritualists will be held in St. Cloud, Minn., next month. They expect to be compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses.

The Apache Indians have a beautiful custom with regard to mothers-in-law. They utterly prohibit all intercourse or conversation between them and their sons-in-law.

THE BURNING FORESTS.

THE DESTRUCTION OF OSCEOLA.

Scenes and Incidents—List of Losses, &c., &c.

The following circumstantial account of the burning of Osceola is taken from the Philipsburg *Journal*:

The most terrible and sweeping conflagration that ever visited any town, not equalled perhaps by the dreadful destruction of Peshtigo, still fresh in the minds of our readers, swept away the whole of our neighboring town of Osceola, four miles distant, on Thursday. For several days fires had been slowly burning in the woods, as is usual at this season of the year, and on Thursday a breeze sprang up from the west, which gradually grew to be a perfect gale, and before which the little, slow-burning fires rapidly spread until in all directions dense volumes of smoke rolling up to mingle with the clouds, told of the work of destruction begun. By noon the mills in the neighborhood of this place and those above Osceola were all in extreme danger, and many of our citizens and those of Osceola had gone to the assistance of the mill owners. At half past twelve it became apparent to those who were fighting the fire about the mills above Osceola that, at the terrible rapidity with which the forest fire was sweeping toward the town, it would be placed in the greatest danger, and many hastened homeward to be prepared for the worst. But although the thoughts of those bent on the destruction of the town, had suddenly sprung to work, and driven by the fierce wind they leaped from tree-top to tree-top, and literally rushed with the swiftness of the wind, crackling and roaring with a sound indescribably terrific. Those only who have seen a large forest fire driven by a gale, can form the slightest idea of the awful fierceness of the flames, not equaled by any burning city where walls necessarily interpose some slight obstacle to the driving flames. Here there is nothing to check their fury, every tree becomes a mighty torch from which the flames leap upward and onward, swelling with every moment, springing a hundred feet in the air and bounding forward like the spring of some awful monster, quickening into flames everything it touches, with a roar so absolutely terrifying as to be beyond comparison. Such was the wall of flame that swept upon Osceola from the west. The inhabitants attempted at first to stop the onward-driving storm of fire, but it was as useless as beating the air. The trees and stumps in the cleared fields that for a little distance separated the buildings from the woods, were alive with flame the moment the cloud of fire reached them, it seemed as if

THE EARTH ITSELF WAS ON FIRE,

and no human power could avail. The Presbyterian church was the first building to take fire, and in less than half an hour the center of the town was in flames, and the people were fleeing for their lives. The descent of the flames upon the town was so sudden, so unexpected, that the wildest confusion prevailed. Men, women and children rushed hither and thither, with some household article or a small pack of clothing hastily gathered in a sheet; men frantically yelled, women screamed and wept, and all thought only of safety for themselves and families. The smoke was so dense that it was impossible to see across the street, the heat was unbearable, adding to the fearfulness of the situation, which was awful in the extreme. The people had no time to save their valuables, but were

OBLIGED TO FLY

with whatever could be most readily seized, sometimes a picture, perhaps a few articles of clothing, a chair, a mirror, or some practical article, but they have left many left with nothing but the apparel on their persons. The sick and disabled were carried to the railroad, whither all hastened, as

THE ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE

from the town, the woods which surrounded it on every side being on fire, and the roads impassible. Here they crowded into box cars, about forty of which were standing on a siding, and were brought to this place. Three trains thus loaded brought the distracted and homeless citizens to our town, and strong men were affected to tears at the spectacle. Here were a thousand people, who yesterday had comfortable homes, this afternoon, huddled into box cars, blackened with smoke, scorched with heat, their eyes swollen and bloodshot, with all their remaining earthly possessions in a bundle that a child might carry. Here were mothers looking for their children or their husbands or some friend not to be found in the throng at the depot, or to be heard of anywhere. Here were men yesterday possessed of handsome residences, handsomely furnished, to-day with all their effects in a valise, or upon their persons; the women in tears, the men calm, but with that look of despair that marks the most intense mental agony. Most of the sufferers were immediately sought out by their friends or acquaintances and taken to their homes, and our citizens vied with one accord to extend their houses for the reception of the unfortunate. Those who had no acquaintances were provided for by kind men and women who found some one to take them, and before night all who had fled from their burning houses were provided with comfortable accommodations. The

INCREDIBLE RAPIDITY

with which dwellings, business blocks, hotels and structures of whatever kind were consumed left little opportunity for pillage. It seemed as though with one breath the demon of the flames levelled the town. The air was full of flying cinders and sparks, and seemed to be a perfect atmosphere of flame. Everything combustible seemed to break into flames simultaneously. The smoke and heat were suffocating and the only wonder is that more were not

LOST AMID THE FLAMES.

It is not positively known that any but one unknown woman was burned to death, although several people are still missing, and their fate is doubtful.

Our reporter visited the scene of devastation on Thursday evening, while the millions of feet of lumber in the yard of the Moshannon Land and LumberCompany were still burning, and himself counted but about seventy houses remaining. All the dwellings on the Catholic church hill, and to the south of the Methodist church, with both those buildings, remain unharmed.

EVERYTHING ELSE IS BURNED.

That tells it all. There is not a mill of any description, not a business house, not a hotel, not even a stable or pile of lumber left, or any other portion of the town. The loss it is impossible to fix at this writing, but the estimate, for Osceola alone, of

NEARLY TWO MILLION DOLLARS,

will perhaps not be too much. The principal losers so far as we are able to lay them before our readers to-day are the Moshannon Land and Lumber Company, mill, 11,000,000 feet of lumber in yard, store, etc., $300,000; White & Son, tanners, $40,000; Liveright, Lingle & Co., store, $30,000; Walker & Brothers, planing mill, $30,000; T. J. Herms, store and dwelling, $20,000; Emmet Sayers, store, $18,000; Geo. M. Brisbin, editor *Reveille*, residence, $15,000; Dr. D. R. Good, store and residence, $14,000; Bell, Lingle & Co., store, $12,000; Boalich, Exchange Hotel, $16,000; Milo Hoyt, Osceola House, $12,000; J. C. Henderson, Ellsworth House, $14,000; Jas. Lipton, Lipton House, $8; any point within the limit of our Railroad Company, buildings and bridges, $10,000; Jas. P. Hale, $10,000; Dr. T. R. Blandy $10,000; L. G. Lingle, residence, $10,000, store, $9,000; residence, $8,000; Mastenbergr, $7,000; Brisbin Bros., Osceola *Reveille* $7,500; Michael Sandford, Public Hall and dwellings, $7,000; Mrs. A. E. Schofield, dwellings, $6,000; Wm. Gardner, $6,000; Fred Rainey, residence, $6,000; Presbyterian church and parsonage, $9,000; J. J. Lingle, residence, $5,000; Catholic parsonage,$5,500, W. A. Crist, residence, $5,000; Mosomie lodge, $5,000; G. E. Jones, jeweler, $5,000; Philip Mehring, $3,000; Abram Kephart, residence, $3,000; Wm. Harner, $3,500; Dr. Kline, $4,000; Wm. Gardner, saloon, $2,500; Bullock estate, $2,500; C. Shoff, dwelling, $2,500; Chandler, residence, $2,500; T. B. Isett, $3,000; property bequeathed to the poor by Solomon Hostermerschlag, $2,500; Hamilton, $2,500; Dr. Hafer, $2,500; Wm. Quigley, $2,500; Baird, $2,500; Chas. Custard, $1,500; Jos. Custard, $1,500; Austin Kline, $1,500; William Custard, $1,500; Jas. Habershaw, $5,000; and about one hundred and fifty dwellings worth about $1,500 each, and ten dwellings worth about $100.

These are losses only in the town of Osceola proper, besides which there has been a great loss by the burning of the mills on the Moshannon Branch and the main line near that place. The fire which destroyed Osceola broke out near Janesville, eleven miles distant, and passed over the intervening distance at the rate of sixty miles an hour through which the fire ran, impossible to estimate, but reaching over $100,000. The same fire destroyed eight or ten houses in Houtzdale, four in Houtzville, and four at Crane's school house. Fires were

RAGING IN EVERY DIRECTION

in the woods about us, endangering every mill in the vicinity of Philipsburg and the town of Morrisdale Mines. At Decatur mines the inhabitants of well-filled houses had their goods into the mines for safety. The Coldstream steam

SAW MILLS OF HOOP, HUMES & CO.,

of this place, their muley mill, Squankum mill, houses, lumber, shingles, logs, etc., were burned. They had piled upon their grounds 1,000,000 feet of sawed lumber, 400,000 shingles, 400,000 feet of logs and 130,000 feet of boards belonging to Munson & Freeman, all destroyed. Their houses were all burned, and all the furniture of the occupants—who barely escaped with their lives—and, altogether, their loss will amount to $35,000 or $40,000. The Loch Lomond mills, of Jones, Allport & Co., were only saved by the vigorous efforts of their men and those of our citizens who assisted in battling against the element. Hoover, Harris & Co.'s two steam mills were in danger, and at one time it was thought one of them could not be saved. In fact such a widespread and destructive conflagration has never been known in this region, if indeed it was ever known in any.

INCIDENTS.

While our citizens were hastening with anxious looks, to assist in saving the mills, near this place, the alarm sounded by the whistle of a locomotive at the depot, brought all who were left in town to the spot. Then it was first learned that Osceola was in danger. Soon the coal train with passenger car attached, which leaves this place at two o'clock, started crowded with men. But the train was unable to reach Osceola on account of the fire in the woods, and put back to this place, with most of the passengers. A few, however, managed to reach the place by walking. The wires soon gave out, there was no telegraphic communication, and the only news received after that time was by the trains which were arriving every few minutes loaded with those escaping from the doomed town, or were brought here for safety. One of the coal trains caught fire at the Osceola depot, before it could be got away, but was drawn back and the fire extinguished. As soon as the conflagration set in the steamer at Tyrone was dispatched for, and started on a special train, but was unable to reach the town on account of the fire along the line of road. The men, however, did reach the place and attacked the fire after all that part of the town which is now in ashes was consumed, and undoubtedly saved the remainder by checking the flames opposite the M. E. church. Fifteen hundred persons are left homeless by the catastrophe, many of them in destitute circumstances. Many previously comfortable circumstances have lost their all, home, furniture, clothing—everything they possessed, and such cases as these will demand and we doubt not receive the fullest exercise of liberality on the part of the towns in their vicinity. This (Friday) morning, a car load of provision passed this place from Clearfield, contributed by the citizens of that place for those who still remained in and about the town with no supplies of any kind to satisfy their wants. Many, unable to get away, spent the night in the woods, supperless and breakfastless.

Few who witnessed the scene at the depot of this place, as the trains brought in the hundreds of homeless citizens of Osceola on that morning a thriving, enterprising village, will ever forget it. The platform was crowded with old and young of both sexes, who had fled from an enemy more ruthless than an invading army. Here was a little girl, with her treasure, a flaxen-haired doll; there a lady who had escaped from the place with her life and her poodle dog; here an old lady anxiously asking, with tears in her eyes, for her son or daughter whom no one had seen; there was a man, smoke-begrimmed and singed, who in the morning owned a large, well furnished hotel—now two bundles of apparel constituted his all. It was a sad sight.

At Taylor's and other mills, the inhabitants were obliged to leave their houses and go out upon the dams to escape the flames, flight being impossible. Sheriff Matheson and another gentleman who were at Houtzdale waded two miles in the Moshannon in order to reach Osceola.

Hundreds visited the smoking ruins this morning, and during the day, and none without being struck with the utter desolation of the busy town. The buildings were all wooden, and there is not remaining even the debris which is left where brick or stone buildings are burned, but everything is swept clean. A more total demolition could not have been. In this dreadful calamity Osceola has the deepest sympathy of our citizens, and we sincerely hope the disaster which has overtaken them will be but a temporary one, and that their energy and industry will soon rebuild the town to beyond its previous proportions. This is the determination of the business men, and in a few days building will commence on the sites of the largest blocks. Many were insured, but at this writing it is impossible to say who, and to what extent.

ADDITIONAL.

The body of the wife of Mr. John Stonebraker, living near Cloyer Run, about four miles from this place, was found in the woods to-day (Friday), burned to a crisp.

The dwelling of Mr. Twigg, about four miles from town, was burned, and his family escaped only with the clothing upon their persons.

The passenger depot at Osceola station was saved, although it caught fire and was at one time deserted by the operator and agent. McCauley's shingle mill also escaped.

A joint meeting of the citizens of Osceola, Clearfield and this place will be held here Saturday, to consider what steps the immediate demands of the Osceola disaster may require to be taken.

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The Pennsylvania building association system was unanimously recommended to be adopted in the Massachusetts Legislature by the Joint Legislative Special Committee on Labor, but was defeated by speeches against it alleging that the poor man might be stripped of his home by the foreclosure of the mortgage, and so all his investment be lost.

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INCIDENTS.

While our citizens were hastening with

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25, 1875.

Morton After the Presidency.

A gentleman who has arrived here, and who met Governor Morton during the visit of the latter to New Orleans, states that Governor Morton told him he was a candidate for the Presidency, and that his friends would bring his name before the National Republican Convention.

Proposed Answers to Sherman.

Several prominent volunteer and regular army officers, who consider that they have been unfairly assailed and unjustly criticised in the new book of General Sherman, indicate their determination to set themselves right in print.

Governor Curtin's Value of Himself.

A letter was received here to-day from Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, in which he says that he will not accept the nomination of the Democratic Convention for Governor if it should be tendered to him, as he does not consider that his name would add any strength to the ticket.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 26, 1875.

Delicate Customs Question Submitted to the Attorney General.

The Treasury Department to-day submitted to the Attorney General a question as to damage allowances in customs cases, which materially affects the interest both of the seacoast and interior ports of entry. The case arises in this way: The revenue act of March last increased the duties on certain articles. The First Auditor of the Treasury desired to know whether merchandise imported at a seacoast port previous to the passage of such act, and arrived at an interior port subsequent thereto, without appraisement under the immediate transportation act of July 14, 1870, was liable to the increased duties by the revenue act of March last. The Department held that the importation was complete on the arrival of the importing vessel within the limits of a port of entry with intent to unload, consequently that the increased duties did not attach to the goods in question. A logical sequence was to order the damage allowances suspended on goods which had arrived at the Western ports. To this the Western importers protested. They seemed to wish that the Secretary of the Treasury should construe the law in favor of the importer. The matter terminated at the seacoast as regards the increase of duty, but terminated at the interior port as regards damage allowances. Upon this question an issue was made.

President's Reception of the Indians.

The reception of the Indians by the President this morning was accompanied by the scenes common to such occasions. The brief speech of the President to the Indians was characterized by plain common sense. It is important that it does not overshadow the President's policy with respect to the opening of all the Northern Indian reservations and the removal of the Indians to the indian Territory. The President very plainly told them that under the treaty of 1868, whose provisions the Indians have claimed are now violated, the Indians were guaranteed clothing for seven years and provisions for only five. The latter time expired two years ago, and since that time the Government has appropriated for their use $1,200 000. This, the President told the Indians, was a gratuity on the part of Congress, and it might at any time be discontinued. Upon this portion of the speech, one sentence seemed to touch the Indians to the quick, and that was that he had very humane feeling for his posterity. This gratuity discontinued, the Indians, the President said, would be left in a barren country, and have to support themselves. In view of this he wished to make an arrangement by which their wives and children might be secure for the future. Spotted Tail, who stood immediately at the President's left, here gave an earnest expression of approval, which was the only demonstration on the part of the Indians present. Colonel F. A. Boyington, son of the President's speech, stepped forward, and, through a half-breed interpreter, arose to a personal explanation. He wanted to be taken no longer for a liar. Jones, Allport & Co's mill was again in danger to-day, but at last accounts, as we go to press, is considered safe. The wind has subsided, and no more large fires are visible, although the smoke still burdens the air.

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LANCASTER.

STATE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

HARTRANFT AND RAWLE.

PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES.

Harmony and Good Feeling Mark the Proceedings.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LANCASTER, PA., May 26, 1875.

The Republican State Convention was called to order at twelve o'clock by Mr. Errett, Chairman of the State Central Committee. The roll of delegates was then called, as follows:

SENATORIAL.

1st District—Philadelphia, Wm. A. Douglass.
2d District—Philadelphia, John Welsh.
3d District—Philadelphia, Andrew Knorr.
4th District—Philadelphia, Chas. Thompson Jones.
5th District—Philadelphia, William B. Mann.
6th District—Philadelphia, General H. H. Bingham.
7th District—Philadelphia, Wm. R. Leeds.
8th District—Philadelphia, John Hause.
9th District—Delaware, George Baker.
10th District—Bucks, Robert M. Yardley.
11th District—Berks, J. C. A. Hoffedtz.
12th District—Montgomery, D. O. Hitner.
13th District—Lancaster, B. F. Eshleman.
14th District—Lancaster, Dr. A. K. Rohrer.
15th District—Dauphin, William Calder.
16th District—Lehigh, E. B. Young.
17th District—Northampton, H. L. Lantz.
18th District—Northampton, General Frank Reeder.
19th District—Chester, George R. Hoopes.
20th and 21st Districts—Luzerne, Thomas Phillips, H. M. Hoyt.
22d District—Monroe, Pike and Carbon, E. M. Boyle.
23d District—Bradford and Wyoming, E. O. Goodrich.
24th District—Lycoming, Montour, Sullivan and Columbia, D. A. Beckley.
25th District—Tioga, Potter and McKean, Hon. John I. Mitchell.
26th District—Susquehanna and Wayne, Hon. W. W. Watson.
27th District—Union, Snyder and Northumberland, W. H. M. Oram.
28th District—York, J. W. Latimer.
29th and 30th Districts—Schuylkill, Hon. L. Hamiltonmow, John Parker.
31st District—Perry, Mifflin and Juniata, Gen. T. F. McCoy.
32d District—Cumberland and Adams, Edward McPherson.
33d District—Franklin and Huntingdon, M. A. Foltz.
34th District—Clinton, Clearfield and Centre, John M. Adams.
35th District—

conducted according to the notions of his employers, they organized a vote of censure, a privilege which Mr. Armstrong did not deny them. But he thought he had a right to employ other hands to supply the places of those who refused to work. This he attempted to do. The result of the attempt is well known, for it has appeared in all the newspaper accounts of the Hocking Valley troubles, and in the evidence heard in the criminal suits growing out of that bloody affair, how certain citizens of Westmoreland and Allegheny counties banded together and, made a fierce attack upon the Italians whom Mr. Armstrong had employed, how a number of those Italians were murdered, and how those who were fortunate enough to escape with their lives were compelled to leave the section of country inhabited by those striking miners. These are facts which cannot be successfully disputed.

The plea urged by those armed and lawless men in justification of their bloody work, that the Italian miners were the aggressors; that they were a terror to the neighborhood, and that unoffending citizens were in danger of being murdered, becomes rather thin and weak when met by the fact that not a hair on the head of anybody in that community was ever harmed by an Italian miner. In all the days and weeks throughout which as they claim, the Italians were constantly firing upon citizens, not a citizen was ever wounded.

In the face of this array of glaring facts Mr. Armstrong is indicted, tried and convicted of aggravated riot! Mr. Armstrong's property is burned by incendiaries, his premises are invaded by armed men, and his employees are shot down in cold blood, and Mr. Armstrong is found guilty of aggravated riot! The verdict of the jury is shameful and disgraceful, and will ever remain a blot upon the fair fame of the county in which it was rendered.

We do not reflect upon the conduct of the court nor counsel in the case, all of whom, we are convinced, labored faithfully and faithfully and conscientiously, but we do most emphatically say that the composition of the people from among whom the jury was selected was so notoriously opposed to the introduction of foreign laborers in the coal mines that without a change of venue could have secured to Mr. Armstrong a just verdict.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION.

Two Steamboats and Three Barges Destroyed.

About half-past 12 o'clock Thursday morning a fire broke out in the steamer Mollie Ebert, lying at the Monongahela wharf, near the foot of Market street. The flames, which seems to have originated in the kitchen of the boat, spread with amazing rapidity, and ere many minutes the boat was wholly enveloped in flames, rendering all efforts to save it or anything on board altogether futile. Next above the Ebert was a hay barge belonging to the Briggs & Co., to which the fire was soon communicated, and thence the flames leaped upon the cabin of the Juniata, which boat, together with the hay barges, was totally destroyed.

Below and alongside the Mollie Ebert were two barges belonging to the Fearless Company, and these also were burned up.

THE PROBABLE LOSS.

The Mollie Ebert was valued at $16,000. She had on board five hundred tons of freight, consisting mainly of glass and manufactured iron, the value of which is estimated at $20,000. Upon the boat there is insurance amounting to $10,000—all in Cincinnati companies. The boat was owned by Capt. Jas. Batchelor and Geo. W. Keys, the latter of Ironton, Ohio.

The Juniata was owned by Captains Brannon, Gordon and others, of this city, and was valued at about $15,000. She was partly insured, but we could not learn the amount or the companies.

The Fearless barges were valued at $4,000 each, and the hay barge at $5,000.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE.

Captain Batchelor, of the Mollie Ebert, was on board and asleep when the fire broke out, and barely escaped with his life. He lost a valuable gold watch and all his clothing. There were only two passengers on board the boat, both of whom got ashore soon after the alarm was raised.

The steamer Exchange which was lying next above the Juniata, narrowly escaped destruction. The fire department concentrated nearly all its force upon the Exchange, and although her stern was all ablaze for several minutes, succeeded in confining the fire to within back the fire until, by means of her bow-line, a large number of men succeeded in moving her up and thus saved her from the fire on the Juniata. The damage to the Exchange will not exceed $500.

The tow-boats Fenelle and other towboats got out into the stream and thus were saved.

The Mollie Ebert was a regular packet for Cincinnati and St. Louis to-day at twelve o'clock.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The alarm was turned in from box 7, corner of Market and Water streets, and was promptly responded to by the department. The fire had made such rapid progress, however, that the steamers Mollie Ebert and Juniata were past saving when the alarm was given. The safety of the Exchange is beyond doubt due to the work of the fire department, as well as other boats lying below the barges of the Fearless Company.

THE HOUSES.

The Monongahela House, St. Charles and Central Hotels were emptied of their several hundred Knights Templar guests who, with the Pittsburgh Commandery, left Cincinnati on the scene, crowded the wharf for several squares. It is estimated there were at one time during the conflagration not less than ten thousand spectators of the scene.

A NOVEL SUIT.

Action to Recover a Share of Profits for Influence in Obtaining a Heavy Contract.

In the Common Pleas Court No. 2, Saturday afternoon, John Ballentine, through his attorney, S. H. Geyer, filed a bill in equity against the Allegheny Valley Railroad and Martin & Worth, contractors. The bill sets forth that Martin & Worth verbally agreed with complainant, John J. Lawrence, John Patton, Lyon, Thomas M. King, and Robert B. Phillips, that if they would use their influence in securing contracts for the construction of certain sections of the Bennett branch of the above road they would pay the one-seventh of the profits. This, orator avers, was done. Through the influence of himself and the others named, Worth and Martin obtained sixteen sections to work on, which they completed to the satisfaction of all concerned. In the fall of 1873 a general settlement was had at the office of Col. Phillips, then President of the road, at which a dividend of $20,000 was allotted to orator and the other four—each to receive $4,000—as their share of the profits. Orator was not present, and avers that he knew nothing of the matter until a week or two afterwards, upon his applying for his share, Col. Phillips and Mr. Martin urged him to wait a short time until the road was in a better condition financially. This he agreed to, waiting until the work had been entirely completed, when he applied again, but with no better success. The defendant contractors have refused to pay him anything, and have refused ever since. Martin & Worth, he states, have been paid by the company for their work, save about $10,000, which is to be paid out in bonds. Orator believing that if they get the money all in their own hands he will be unable to recover his profits, asks the court to restrain the contractors from paying any more funds receiving the bonds, and to also enjoin the company in the same manner from paying them. And, further, he asks that a receiver be appointed to take charge of the affairs of Martin & Worth, and audit their accounts with the company, the money received, etc., with a view of making a fair and equitable division of the profits as by agreement.

Pittsburgh Mortuary Report.

Dr. W. Snively, Physician to the Board of Health, makes the following mortuary report for the week ending May 22d, 1875: There were 61 deaths in the city during the week. Causes—Alcoholism, 3; by burn, 1; fall, 1; apoplexy, 2; congestion of brain, 1; bronchitis, 2; carbuncle, 2; cancer of uterus, 1; cholera infantum, 1; cerebrospinal fever, 1; consumption, 12; convulsions, 2; dropsy, 1; debility, 2; dentition, morbid, 1; diarrhea, 2, enteritis, 2; typhoid fever, 1; scarlet fever, 2; dilatation, 1; hepatitis, 1; inanition, 1; congestion of lungs, 1; measles, 1; old age, 1; pneumonitis, 5; peritonitis, 1; scrotula, 1; tabes mesenterica, 2; tetanus, traumatic, 1; whooping cough, 5. Color—White males, 25; females, 20; total, 45. Negro Males, 3; females, 2. Social relations—Married, 20; single, 36; widows, 4; widowers, 1. Nativity—Pittsburgh, 28; other parts of the United States, 12; England, 1; Germany, 10; Ireland, 8. Age—Under one year, 12; from one to two, 6; from two to five, 4; from five to ten, 2; from ten to twenty, 8; from twenty to thirty, 7; from thirty to forty, 5; from forty to fifty, 3; from fifty to sixty, 4; from sixty to seventy, 3; from seventy to eighty, 6; from eighty to ninety, 1. Localities—City wards, 56; West Pennsylvania Hospital, 2; Pittsburgh Intirmary, 2; Orphan Asylum, 1.

POLITICAL.

State.

The *Republican* of Bloomsburg, Columbia county, has raised the name of Benjamin H. Bristow, of Kentucky, for President, subject to the decision of the National Republican Convention of 1876.

It is announced from Philadelphia that a "Liberal Republican" Convention will assemble at Williamsport in August. The "Liberal" party of Pennsylvania, it is said, numbered about forty-seven persons in 1872, and several of those have since returned to the Republican fold.—*Schuylkill Republican.*

The Gubernatorial contest among the Democratic candidates in this State is narrowing down to Colonel Noyes, of Clinton; R. E. Monaghan, Esq., of Chester; Judge Trunkey, of Venango, and Hon. A. H. Dill, of Union. At the present time the nomination rests between these four gentlemen.—*Bellefonte Watchman.*

The Philadelphia *Commonwealth* shows no disposition to "let up" on the "Liberal Republicans." It says: It is said that the three or four gentlemen now "out of business" in the political party line, but known under the name, style and title of Liberal Republicans, will hold a convention of "free ticketers" in Masonic Hall, the house of one Peter Herdic in that town, to nominate a Governor and State Treasurer to be forced on the Democratic Convention at Erie, in September next. Whatever these gentlemen may think proper to do is no concern of ours. But if they propose to "fix up" a slate for the Democratic party in convention assembled for its indorsement, we advise them to save trouble and free tickets. Any such effort will be scorned by the real Democracy of Pennsylvania and rejected without ceremony. It is an insolent, impertinent interference with a party that these people have sought to destroy when they had position in the Negro Radical party, and now that they has driven them out, the Democracy is no home for such outcasts.

General.

The seat of Bell, one of the Democrats elected to Congress from New Hampshire, is to be contested. Gross frauds, it is alleged, were resorted to by his supporters in the campaign.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 26, 1875.

The local money market is very perceptibly affected by the celebrations in progress, and the excitement on the streets is reflected universely in the banks by dullness and absence of activity.

Loans on good commercial paper are readily made, but rigid scrutiny is made into the standing of makers and indorsers, and the use to be made by the money borrowed.

Exchange on New York and Philadelphia is scarce, and many of the banks are compelled to ship bank notes to meet the drafts issued by them in the regular course of their business. We may therefore quote Eastern funds at from ⅜ to 1-10 premium.

—The resolutions of the Republican Convention at Lancaster, to-day, have reached us by wire, and there are two which are of especial interest to business men.

The ninth resolution is—Protection to home industry and a home market for home products. Every Pennsylvanian, be his political creed what it may, must subscribe to the truth therein stated, and every business man, let him vote what ticket he may, know that this is the doctrine, put into practical operation which has given our State its proud preeminence in manufactures among the States, and our city its place at the head of the manufacturing interests of the State, and that according to the same line of action in the future can we expect to retain the position thus won.

The twelfth resolution declares in favor of "free banking, a safe and uniform national currency and a steady reduction of the national debt."

To this every legitimate banker will respond with a hearty concurrence. The declarstion here made is very far from the theory of inflation. An absolute issue of Government notes would have the effect of diluting the currency of the country, advancing prices and temporarily giving an artificial stimulus to trade, without adding one dollar to the actual values of the country. Free banking means, primarily, the liberty of issuing as many bank notes as the country calls for. If the demands of trade call for a greater volume of circulation, the banks, under a free banking law, will issue whatever notes are needed, and as soon as the demand ceases, they will redeem their own by taking back the issues through the agency of the Redemption Bureau at Washington. The last report of the national banks shows that they are now holding in their vaults over twenty millions of their circulating notes which are not demanded by the wants of trade, and these notes are so held to save the tax on circulation. When business revives and money is wanted, this reserve of bank notes will come into circulation. Free banking means, also, safe banking. Judicious bankers may do as safe a business without as with governmental supervision as with it, yet the fact that they are doing a safe business is only known through the publicity required of the national banks. Injudicious bankers who do an unsafe business and depend on the deposits of their customers rather than upon their own capital, if brought within the bonds of a free banking law are compelled to run their business in accordance with the principles that experience has shown to be sound banking, and which are embodied in the law of Congress on that subject. Public opinion is that private bankers find they must bring their affairs under the supervision of Governmental inspection, "step down and out," and make room for those who are willing to do so. This we see in the fact that nearly all the leading banking firms in the country are changing their organizations and enlisting under the banner of free banking. The doctrines of the extreme hard money men, equally with those of the inflationists, are losing their influence, and the conservative doctrines expressed in the twelfth resolution of the Republican Convention of this State are taking the lead.

We feel certain that the financial portion of the platform will meet with the cordial approval of all who have the material interest of the State at hart.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE,
BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 7 NEW STREET,
NEW YORK, May 24, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Comsmercial:

The week in the objective point, opening at 21⅝, as against 21⅞ at the close on saturday, and rapidly declining to 21⅜. A disposition to purchase at the decline carried the quotation up to 20⅝, when reports were current that a receiver had been appointed and the improvement was quickly lost.

For the most part of the day the temper of the whole market has been bearish, the leading stocks which were most last week suffering most, with the exception of Pacific Mail and Western Union, which have been remarkably steady. Operators have been watching Erie closely and evince a disposition to buy stocks as soon as the last movement in values has spent itself. The depression in speculative shares has affected investment stocks as well as the latter are much in their grasta. Indications are in anticipation to purchase until the *storm* of the market is more fluuly established. The amount of gold imported, and a better feeling prevailed, but only to be subsequently lost when prices touched the lowest point of the day.

Toward the close the market cut loose from Erie, and the latter fell to 20⅛. Mail and Western Union took an independent position, giving indications that the bears have over-reached the market.

We see no signs of *real* weakness any where, except in sympathy with Erie, and this stock is undoubtedly being manipulated in the interest of speculative brokers. The improvement in gold which was expected to follow the close warrants our expressed opinion, that further and higher prices have very nearly, if not quite touched bottom.

Gold has been steady, fluctuating only between 109⅝ and 109¾.

Money continues very easy: nominally 2@3 per cent.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

May 26, 1875.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	116	116	116	115⅞	116	116
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	124¼		124¼		124¼	
5-20's, 1865	122¼		122¼		122¼	
5-20's, 1865, new	118		118		118⅛	
5-20's, 1865, new, coup.	122⅝		122⅝		122⅝	
5-20's, 1867	124¼		124¼		124¼	
5-20's, registered	122¼					
5-20's, 1868	123¼		123¼		123¼	
10-40's, registered	116⅛		116⅛		116⅛	
10-40's, coupons	118		118		118	
Currency 6's	126½		126½		126½	
New 5 per cents	116⅜		116⅞		116⅞	
Western Union	76⅝	76⅝	76	76	76	76⅛
Quicksilver	16		16			
Pacific Mail	36½	36¾	36⅝	36⅝	36⅝	36⅝
Adams Express	87		87			
Wells, Fargo Express	58		58			
American Express	51		51			
United States Exp'ss						
New York Central	97		97			
Erie	17¾	17¾	17¾	17¾	17	16⅞
Michigan Central	64½	64½	64½	64½	64½	64½
Illinois Central						
Cleve. & Pittsburgh	92					
Chicago & Rock Island	97⅝	98	98	98	98⅛	98⅛
Do preferred						
Pittsburgh & Ft. Wayne	103					
St. Paul, common	33	33¼	33¼	33		
Wabash, common	8½	8¾	9	9	8¾	8¾
Fort Wayne						
Ohio & Mississippi	25⅜	25⅝				
Union Pacific	74⅜	74⅝	74⅝	74⅝	74⅝	74⅝
Harlem	134					
Hannibal & St. Joe	21¾	21¾				
Iron Mountain	20					
Del. & Hudson						
South Carolinas, Ap'l	32¼					
South Carolinas, 1869						
Missouri 6's	102				102⅜	

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales.... 50¼	....	....
Reading, sales.... 20¾	20¾	20⅞
United Co's of N. Jersey.... 123½	124	124½
Oil Creek.... 9¼	9½	....
Atlantic & Great Western.... 62	62¼	62⅝
Allegheny Valley.... 97	97¼	97¾
Central Transportation.... 45½	46	46½
Empire Transportation.... 53	54	....

[By Associated Press.]
Gold closed at 116.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, May 26.—Money easy at 2@3 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 3½@4½ per cent.

STERLING

Quiet at 486¾@487¼ for sixty days and 489¼ for sight.

GOLD

Opened and closed at 116, with sales during the day at 115⅞@116⅛. Borrowing rates were flat and 1@3 per cent. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $78,000. Clearings $43,000,000. Customs receipts $181,000.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds steady. Railroad bonds quiet. State bonds dull. The stock market has been quiet and dull, with a general decline in quotations in the leading shares. Erie led the list in point of activity and decline, selling down to 16⅝ against 18⅝ at the close yesterday. The price recovered to 17⅜, and still later rebated to 17. The highest point declined from ¼@⅜ per cent. at the opening and later advanced from ¼@⅜ per cent. The Mail reacted 1½ per cent., and the remainder of the list fell off from ⅛@⅝ per cent. from the highest point. Northwestern opened at 37⅝, rose to 38¾ and reacted to 38¼. Pacific Mail advanced from 36⅞ to 37 and reacted to 37⅛. Lake Shore fell off to 64¼, a decline of 1 per cent. as compared with the closing quotation yesterday, but afterward recovered. Rock Island advanced from 102½ to 103⅛, and New York Central from 96¾ to 97¼. Western Union declined to 75⅝, against 76⅛ last evening. Ohio and Mississippi advanced from 25¼ to 25⅝. Hannibal & St. Joe. preferred declined 2¾, and Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central, from 20 to 19½. Other stocks were irregular during the last hour of business, but were generally steady at the close. Pacific Mail declined to 36⅝, and closed at 36⅝. Erie reacted to 16⅞ and afterward recovered to 17⅛, closing at 16¾, and New York Central at 64⅝. Northwestern common receded to 38¼ and advanced ⅜ per cent. in last sales, closing at 38¾. Rock Island declined ¼ from that price, the highest of the day. Ohio and Mississippi rose to 25⅝, and closed at 25⅜. Union Pacific closed at 74⅝, and Central Pacific at

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1875.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, in the East, having discontinued its publication, we shall be unable to furnish it to subscribers hereafter. We ask the indulgence of our patrons, in this matter, for the reason that the failure is wholly beyond our control.

GOVERNOR HARTRANFT has accepted the invitation to visit Boston on the 17th of June, to participate in the Bunker Hill Centennial celebration.

THE value of the foreign exports of Boston last week was $240,545, against $436,472 for the corresponding week last year. The total valuation of the exports since the beginning of the year foots up $13,802,998, against $12,508,584 for the relating period of 1874—a gain of $1,294,416.

AN ENCOURAGING business sign in the East is that there are fewer idle men about, and that a great many mechanics who could find no employment at their trades have gone to work on farms, and engaged in other pursuits that will ultimately help to bring about a more prosperous condition of affairs.

THE Government is pushing the whisky ring to the wall with a vigilance and power that are daily increasing. It is a notable fact that this determination to execute the laws does not extort praise from the Democratic press, whose personal and partisan sympathies seem to be all with the crooked whisky dealers.

THE Methodist Church is beginning a movement in opposition to what is thought to be a growing inclination on the part of the Roman Catholics in this country to obtain control of Governmental affairs. It is proposed to make the movement national as regards the Methodist Church, and other Protestant denominations will be invited to join in it.

THE Chicago *Tribune's* grasshopper reports are of a much more encouraging character than any which have been hitherto received. Nebraska is especially hopeful of escaping a renewal of the visitation; in Missouri there is a feeling of encouragement; in Kansas the farmers have recovered from their alarm and feel reassured; and in Minnesota and Iowa the prospects are not considered nearly as gloomy as heretofore.

THE law-makers of Illinois, in their anxiety to protect all persons charged with lunacy, require the next of kin of the person so charged to be present during the preliminary investigation. This accounts for the presence of ROBERT LINCOLN during the examination of his mother prior to her commitment to the State Hospital, and truly, no man was ever subjected, before, to more trying ordeal than was he on that melancholy occasion.

THAT must indeed be a cheerful condition of affairs on the Texas border, when United States troops, attempting to discharge their duty in preventing Mexican raids, are arrested, tried before juries friendly to the raiders, and thrown into prison. The Secretary of War has very properly informed the Governor of Texas that a repetition of such acts will result in the prompt withdrawal of the troops from that State.

THE foreign imports of Philadelphia last month amounted to $1,932,899, of which nearly two-thirds came in American vessels. Only a small portion, $36,011, were indirect importations, by way of New York. The free goods imported amounted to $136,318, the balance paying duty. The greater part of our trade with England and Cuba was carried under the American flag. About one-third the Italian trade was similarly conducted, and also all our trade with Nova Scotia and Columbia, South America.

JOHN C. BRECKENRIDGE was too much of a man to make a successful traitor, although not enough of a man to withstand his own ambition and the bad influences that surrounded him. JESSE D. BRIGHT, however, was a cold-blooded, deliberate and sycophantic servant of the slave power. He was justly expelled from the United States Senate, and lived out the remainder of his days in deserved disgrace. Unless he desires to increase the contempt in which his memory will be held by all loyal men, it should observe profound silence regarding him.

THOSE who predicted that the new tariff and the new revenue law would operate disastrously upon the receipts of the Treasury, because the revenue fell off slightly for a few weeks after the new laws were enacted, have turned out false prophets. The internal revenue receipts are already in excess of the estimates, and the receipts from the tariff are gradually coming up. Commissioner DOUGLASS estimated the receipts for the current year ending June 30 at $105,000,000. They had reached $95,000,000 last week, with seven weeks revenue yet ahead, and the total is likely to go to $110,000,000.

JEFFERSON DAVIS is growing wiser as he grows older, for a wonder. In his speech at the Texas State fair he advised little of politics and less of war, but a great deal of agriculture and manufactures, recommended the people to encourage immigration, and urged them to make their State self-supporting. If this advice had been given to the South when the war ended, and had been followed, there would have been none of the troubles that have since intervened. The advice, now, comes too late to be of much present service. The rising generation may profit by it, but the one that is passing off the stage has become too fixed in its worthless habits to be induced to change them.

THE losses of the insurance companies by the Clearfield county fires must be very heavy. The Moshannon Lumber Company had an insurance of $250,000 upon their stock and mills, and most of the other losers are more or less protected by insurance, excepting, of course, the poor miners and laborers who, beside losing what little they had, were otherwise impoverished by a strike which was just drawing to a close when the fires broke out. The Philadelphia papers say that the losses of New York and Philadelphia insurance companies for the first quarter of this year have been greater than for the whole of 1874, and this without any very great single catastrophes.

THE Chicago *Times* of Saturday prints nearly a page of telegraphic reports of the condition of the spring wheat in Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and Dakota, where it is a staple product. Their general tenor is decidedly encouraging. The spread is, in all sections where the season is sufficiently advanced, all that could be desired. In some sections, however, the season is unusually backward, and the wheat is just above the ground. Still it is thought that with good weather during the summer, the yield in these sections will be fully up to the average of past seasons. On the whole it looks as if the Northwestern spring wheat crop will nearly make up the deficiencies caused by the winter-killing of winter wheat.

ACCORDING to a list published by Secretary QUAY in the pamphlet laws for 1875, of corporations created under the general corporation act of April 28, 1874, it appears that between the 14th of July, 1874 and the 1st day of May, 1875, there were 157 corporations charted and recorded in the Secretary's office. The list embraces manufacturing companies of all kinds, turnpike companies, building and loan associations, gas companies, pipe companies, and water, coal, publishing, land, lumber, stone, ice, storage, bridge, market, ferry and steamboat companies. This list is evidence that corporations multiply as rapidly under general laws as they did under special laws, and that a general corporation law answers all the wants of the State completely.

IT IS now evident that most of the reports about the extent and ferocity of the grasshoppers out West were due to a grand "bull" movement in the Chicago grain market. Those holding large stocks were of course most active in starting the rumors and most alarmed at the ravages of the insects. From the reports of the papers, as well as letters both public and private from the sections where the plague was reported to be at its worst, the gratifying news comes that the prospect is nothing nearly so bad as was at first reported, and that in a great number of instances the scourges are dying off by millions and millions. There is no doubt that the present prices of grain are by considerably higher than the natural basis of supply and demand justify.

POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

The word "Democracy" means the government of the people, or government by the people; but the Democracy of the Democratic party has no such meaning. The Democracy of New Hampshire has just deprived the people of two of its twelve Senatorial districts of their right to choose their own Senatorial representatives, upon the silly plea that their tickets were not printed rightly; and the Democracy throughout the United States never hesitates to defy the people when it can find its account in doing so.

We have alluded heretofore to the effort of Governor TILDEN, the Democratic Governor of New York, to annul the action of the people in choosing State officers by seeking such legislation as would clothe him with the absolute right of removing such officers whenever he chose to exercise it. The Legislature, very wisely, refused to give him this prerogative; but the fact remains that he asked for it, and that the Democratic House passed the bill he recommended. It was the Republican Senate of the State which stood by popular rights and saved them from the sacrifice proposed. So far as the Democracy of New York was concerned it was perfectly willing to put the Governor above the people and give him full power to turn out any State officer elected by the popular voice. The Democracy in this case was the party of absolutism; and the Republican party was the conservator of popular supremacy.

We have now, from the same source, another instance of hostility to popular rights. In his special message to the Legislature upon the difficulties which have attended municipal governments in that State, Governor TILDEN hinted openly at an abandonment of government by the people, in municipal affairs, and a return to the old aristocratic system of the representation of property alone. In other words, he would exclude the masses of the people from any share in the government of cities, and restrict suffrage, in municipal elections, to the holders of real estate. This is "Democracy," in New York, but it is, in reality, aristocracy. It is government by the specially favored few, and not, in any sense, government by the people.

It is urged, we know, that the proposition extends only to cities, and to municipal affairs alone. The suffrage in State and national matters would remain as before. But, if the principle be right in regard to cities, why not, also, in regard to the State and the nation? The reasons that apply in one case apply in all; and it would be utterly impossible to preserve a double-headed government—the people, in mass, upon one side, and the property holders upon another. If power ever steals from the many to the few in the government of cities, it will not be long in following in the affairs of State and nation. Upon this point the New York *Evening Post* well says:

"We believe that those who would radically reconstruct the popular system of government in cities by limiting or abolishing it they call 'the representation of property' are doing all they can to verify the predictions of the opponents of democratic republicanism. The party of no arguments in favor of giving rich men more voice in the administration of municipal matters which will not support a like policy in national affairs has a disadvantage which occurs. There is no more reason why the votes of the vicious and the ignorant should offset or counteract the votes of the honest and the cultivated in the election of a president than in the election of a mayor. It is just as right that the merchant should have more to say than his truck-driver about the making of laws to regulate the currency and the tariff of the country as about the making of laws to regulate the streets and the parks and the sewers of the city. If our present system will not work satisfactorily, not merely in the easy circumstances of a rural community, where comparatively little government is needed, but also in the great centers of population, where it is put to a real and severe test, we may as well admit its failure."

These instances of a tendency to absolutism and the one-man power in the miscalled "Democracy" of the present day are worthy of being taken into serious account. They are unmistakable indications of the drift of that party. It was the natural allay of slavery while it lasted, and the foe of free labor and free government, and its natural tendency is to distrust the people. In its earlier days, the Democracy was what its name supposes it to be, the party of popular rights; but a long association with the tyranny of slavery has made it just the reverse of what it was at first. When it was in power in the nation it strove with all its might to concentrate all the political power of the Government in the hands of 250,000 slaveholders, as a privileged and ruling class; and it is true to the lessons it learned then, although false to all its early traditions, in advocating the concentration of State power in the hands of one man and of municipal power in the hands of a landed aristocracy.

THE Clearfield strike appears to have ended by the surrender of the operatives and a return to work at the old rates. We are glad, for many reasons, that they have gone to work again; but we cannot refrain from expressing the conviction that the strike might possibly have been avoided had the operators been frank enough to explain fully to the men that the condition of the coal market did not warrant them in paying an advanced price for mining. The price paid for mining coal was last year reduced from sixty to fifty cents a ton, with the understanding that the old price should be restored when the state of business would warrant it. The diggers thought that the rates now obtained by the operators for the coal marketed by them would justify a return to the old rate; the operators thought not, but declined, at least so the men say, to exhibit the evidences upon which they came to that conclusion. A full statement of the real facts of the case *might* have satisfied the diggers that they were wrong in demanding an advance. We do not say that it would; but we regret that it was not made. A frank intercourse between the parties would have done no harm, even if it did no good.

THE anxiety of so many adventurers to get into the Black Hills to mine for gold has given to the Sioux Indians an exaggerated idea of their importance as the owners of that valuable tract of country. They have evidently been impressed, by the speculating villains among them who have exiled themselves from civilization and married Indian squaws, with the conviction that they can extort a large sum from the Government for the privilege of mining for the precious metals upon their otherwise unproductive territory, and they have accordingly begun to assume an insolent and bullying tone in their addresses to the President. They are too important in their own estimation, and too high in rank to negotiate with any one but the President in person. Their bearing was insolent and haughty, and we do not wonder to hear that the President was offended by it. They are the victims of designing schemers, and their insulting manner is but the first step in a conflict between themselves and the Government, which can end only in the utter extinction of their tribe.

UPWARDS of ten thousand immigrants, it is stated, went to California last month, alone, with the intention of making that State their permanent abode. The San Francisco papers, however, do not look upon this heavy influx at all favorably, and they plainly intimate that the current of population which of late has been setting so strongly thitherward must either turn back or flow on into Oregon. Indeed, they stand pat upon saying that California is full so far as present ability to take care of the new comers is concerned, and that a large proportion of the immigrants will find Oregon more to their advantage than California. No doubt this is so. People who want to make a living by industry and economy can do that as easily in Oregon as anywhere, and perhaps a little easier, and such people the State needs. Drones, however, will starve out there, just as they starve out, and ought to starve out, everywhere.

THE Boston *Advertiser* publishes a tabular exhibit of our trade with Canada, which shows a very gratifying increase. In 1872 Canada exported to this country $36,000,000 worth of goods, which was increased to forty and a half millions in 1873, but fell to thirty-five millions last year. The imports, however, showed a regular growth from $35,600,000 in 1872 to $47,700,000 in 1873, and $54,300,000 in 1874. The aggregate trade was nearly seventy-two millions in 1872, eighty-eight millions in 1873, and ninety millions in 1874. The statistics also show that we are sharing more and more equally with Great Britain the advantages of this important market. In 1872 the imports from the United States were thirty-three per cent. of all the imports in Canada, in 1873 they were thirty-seven per cent., and in 1874 they were more than forty-two per cent. The imports from Great Britain have not increased at all during the last three years.

THE terrible devastation which has swept over a portion of Clearfield county, destroying two towns and rendering many families homeless, should excite the charity of our people, and prompt them to early efforts for the relief of the suffering. The scene of this terrible disaster is only one hundred and fifty miles from here. The people who have been driven out of their homes are, in fact, our neighbors; and the burden of feeding and clothing those who have suddenly lost their all should not be allowed to fall exclusively upon such comparatively small places as Huntingdon, Tyrone and Altoona. Pittsburgh should do her share. The fires which have swept Osceola and Houtzdale away, came upon the people suddenly, and have left them not merely homeless, but without food or changes of clothing. Their case is a pitiable one, and should awaken an active sympathy everywhere.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Green corn ear long.

Detroit is blessed. Not a steam whistle is heard within the limits of its corporation.

A revival of the lumber trade is indicated in Michigan, and a busy season promised.

Given 40,736 lawyers in this unhappy country, what is the annual crop of lawsuits?

In Rockingham county, Va., Northern capitalists are buying iron ore lands at good prices.

Boston's taxation, this year, will be four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars less than last year.

Preliminary steps have been taken at New York for the establishment of a school for the training of hospital nurses.

Another English manufacturing company has been formed in South Carolina for the manufacture of ship frames, furniture, etc.

The savings banks of California owe their depositors $70,000,000—and have only $3,000,000 cash on hand with which to pay them.

Warned by the emergency, Victor Emanuel is assimilating his treatment of the Catholic Church exactly to that of Bismarck.

The difference of $1 per ton in freights on last year's business of the Canadian Great Western Railroad, amounted to over a million dollars.

A scheme for a narrow gauge railway between Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Dubuque, Iowa, is being enthusiastically received along the route.

It makes one melancholy to think that there are now in Milan three hundred American girls studying singing with a view to the operatic stage.

The clearings of the Chicago banks for last week amounted to $20,959,972 87, being about a million in excess of those for the corresponding week last year.

An ordinary book form the delinquent tax list of Chicago, as published in the *Inter-Ocean*, would make four volumes the size of Macaulay's History of England.

The exodus to Europe is assuming great proportions. Last Saturday over a thousand cabin passengers sailed from New York, and almost as many will leave this week.

Here's a splendid chance for Bill Allen. The British Government wants to procure a fog-horn for the Scilly Islands that can be heard far enough to be of use to mariners.

Mr. Gordon S. Hubbard, of Chicago, has just given thirty acres of very valuable land near that city, to the Reformed Episcopal Church, for the purposes of a theological seminary.

The wholesale death of the fish in the Genesee river, New York, is charged to chemicals that are allowed to run into the river from a new paper mill at Rochester, just above the falls.

According to General Sherman's Memoirs, almost every general but one was at some time or other surprised by the enemy. That one always knew what was coming. Guess who?

Let the various Legislatures of the Western States pass laws, at their next session, prohibiting the destruction of wild game for two or three years. That'll put a stop to the operations of the grasshoppers.

Rev. Edward Eggleston's new church in Brooklyn as far as possible does away with a formal doctrinal creed, and is patterned after the early Christian Church. It calls itself the "Church of Christian Endeavor."

Worse than thieving. Several of the Chicago pawnbrokers are, it appears, in the habit of receiving stolen goods from dry-goods clerks and shop boys, whom they have initiated and instructed in the art of stealing.

A brief temperance sermon. Of the 4,448 persons committed to the Connecticut jails, last year, and supported generally in idleness at a cost of $78,000 for board and $76,000 for attendance, 1,563 were hard drinkers and 2,149 moderate drinkers.

Have those Sioux chiefs the power to convey possession of their reservation? The twelfth article of the existing treaty stipulates that no treaty or cession shall have validity unless signed by three-fourths of the male Indians occupying or interested in the reserved lands.

A survey is now being made of the tides and currents in the region of the Aleutian Islands and Behring sea, which will add much to the precision of our knowledge in regard to the currents, temperatures, and general physical conditions of the North Pacific.

PERSONAL.

JAMES E. Murdoch, the retired actor, is building a church at Murdoch, Warren county, Ohio, with the earnings of his readings. The Rev. Talmage will please bear this in mind.

Probably the youngest sea captain in the country is Captain George Warner of the Boston schooner Allaretta, eighteen years old, who is engaged in the wood business on his own account, buying it in Nova Scotia and selling it at Boston.

Hon. John Cuthbert, born in Savannah, Ga., in 1788, elected to Congress in 1819, and participating in the great debate on the Missouri compromise, is still living and practicing law at the Mobile bar. He is the oldest ex-member of Congress living.

Governor Butler, of Nebraska, has brought suit in the sum of $10,000 against an English nobleman for a house purchased in Lincoln which 'is lordship bought some time ago and forgot to pay for. He came over a 'untin' of the hantelope, and thought 'e'd 'ave a box 'ere.

The body of John Blackford, an American actor, who was lost in the ocean ago in trying to ascend Mont Blanc without guides, is said by a Swiss newspaper to have been found in an immense block of ice which recently fell from the mountain. Nature had preserved him on ice.

A curious instance of the contagiousness of fear was shown on a Sunday scare in a factory at New Haven, the other day. A number of girls employed began talking about the frequency of sudden deaths, and became quite sober in their conversation, when one of them, more lively than the rest, to change the subject, placed a small land-turtle, which she had found somewhere, upon the bench. In half an hour, upon missing it, was so startled that she fainted away. This circumstance, coupled with their former conversation, had such an effect upon the girls, that one after another, they fell into a death-like stupor, until seven of them were stretched upon the floor. One of the men, too, though evidently much frightened at the occasion, also succumbed, and the foreman, becoming alarmed, sent all hands from the room and shut down work for the day.

Rev. Mr. Hepworth, of New York, has lately been holding a series of afternoon and evening meetings. These services bring together a great variety of people, representing different sections of the city and different sects. Mr. Stokes (father of Edward), with his family, are quite regular in their attendance. One evening a man arose and offered prayer. He was quite a fine looking man, had a mellow, pleasant voice, and was rather gifted. The next evening he called the name of Christian the missionary went down and spoke to him, and asked if he would not make a few remarks when there was a vacancy. He thought it a good thing to have the time filled and filled up well. The stranger, nothing loth, came to his feet, and, in a five minutes' speech, made a genuine sensation. He began: "My dear Christian friends, I am glad to be among you tonight. I am a man who has seen a great deal of affliction. I had a son that I loved dearly, but he was killed. My son's name was James Fisk, Jr. Perhaps you have heard of him." At this announcement an excitement was produced, not much calculated to provoke a revival.

THE streets of Virginia City, Nev., are macadamized with refuse ore, and the frequent trains from the mines over them have slowly sifted down precious dust till they have become, to express it scientifically, argentiferous. Some mud taken from an omnibus wheel in the city was given to an assayer, and it yielded at the rate of $7 54 silver, and $2 32 gold per ton.

PATENTS.

Notes From the Patent Office—No. 3.

[The writer claims credit for the whole or any part of these articles if reprinted.]

PATENT FEES.

"There is no occasion for any reduction of the fees demanded of applicants. They are trifling compared with the expenses attending the grant of a patent in other countries, and there is no complaint that they are exorbitant. I firmly believe that they should be kept at their present rate, and that most of the surplus receipts should be expended in the direction indicated for the benefit of the office and that large portion of the public vitally interested in patents. Such use of the funds of the office would meet a continually increasing demand, and be received with popular approbation."—*Extract from the last annual report of the Commissioner of Patents.* Before the war it not unfrequently happened that there were accumulated in the United States Treasury some millions of dollars in excess of the expenditures for the legitimate demands of the Government. At first view such evidence of prosperity would seem to be a national blessing, but it always proved to be a national evil. The first thought of the restless spirits in Congress was to concoct the most plausible plan to successfully rob the national treasury, and the legitimate duties of the legislature were forgotten in the reckless foray on the money bags of Uncle Samuel. Now it remains to be seen whether the nearly a million of dollars now held to the credit of the Patent Office will prove to be a blessing or otherwise. This large amount of money has been paid into the Patent Office treasury by the inventors of the country as fees which are prescribed by the act of Congress. All the expenses of the Patent Office have been paid out of these fees, and this large surplus remains. By the above extract it will be seen that the Commissioner of Patents is giving the subject of spending this money his earnest attention. He calls the attention of Congress to the matter, and throws rather a seductive bait to the Congressional mind, when he suggests that a way may be devised for spending it which will receive popular approbation." Within a few years past the Commissioner of Patents has experimented with a number of his crude schemes and plans, sometimes in accordance with the letter of the law and sometimes against it, at the expense of the Patent Office Fund.

When Congress fixed the fees which inventors should pay to the Patent Office, it cannot be supposed that it was designed to fix those fees so high as to leave a surplus in the treasury after paying the expenses of the Patent Office—taking a series of years together in making the calculation. These large receipts are a temptation to cupidity should invite it, to speculate on the labors of its inventors. As a class they are very poor, and, in most instances, without education. The value of their inventions to the prosperity and development of the country is beyond price. In 1861 the fees for patents were fixed at $15 when the application was filed and a like final fee when the application was allowed to go to patent, making $35 in full for the Government fees for a patent. These rates have continued up to the present time. Every year since these rates were established the receipts have been in excess of the expenditures. In 1869 the receipts were in excess of the expenses in the Office by over two hundred thousand dollars! Of course if the patent is not allowed the $15 first Government fee is lost to the applicant. Immediately upon the passage of that sum as its compensation for the announcement to the inventor that his invention is not deemed worthy of a patent. The Commissioner of Patents would certainly should have no desire to demand any more for this preliminary examination than its actual cost. Take the last year's report for instance: there were nine thousand and three applications which were finally rejected, and the excess of the receipts over the expenditures was $88,999 76. During the last named year by the number of rejected applications gives the sum of seven dollars and thirty-seven cents. Now, it is a question for the Legislature could have demanded a less sum by seven dollars and thirty-seven cents, than it actually did demand for the first Government fee, and still have kept the expenditures of the Patent Office within its receipts. Possibly some other of the sections of the Patent Office laws may have yielded a profit which is used in this calculation to show how the first Government fee might be reduced. But that is nothing to the point. The first Government is bound by every principle of right and justice to reduce to the minimum the charge made to the poor and struggling inventor whose application is finally rejected. The conclusion is this: That the next Congress should reduce the first Government fee for patent applications filed to $20 and the final fee should be increased from $20 to $25. The total for the two Government fees would then be $35—the same as at present, when the patent is allowed. But when the application is finally rejected, and no benefit accrues to the inventor, he would lose only $10 instead of $15 as at present. This change would give margin enough to the Government to make it perfectly safe. It is simple justice to the inventors of the country. What interest could be derived from taking more than forty thousand dollars annually out of the pockets of its inventors without rendering an equivalent? The compensation of the clerk fees in this country with similar fees in the monarchies of Europe will hardly be considered a good argument in this country. You might as well say that a half a million dollars as an annual salary of the President is a trifling salary compared to the expenses attending the executive office in other countries. Neither the Patent Office nor the Executive Office in this country have any underlying reasons for their existence which are typical of their functions in any foreign government. We reason from a different standpoint. When the Patent Office fees exceed the expenses for examination they should be cut down. That is the work for the next Congress.

BOARD OF APPEALS.

The recent death of Hon. S. H. Hodges left a vacancy which has been filled by G. A. Nolan, Esq., of Connecticut, who has for some years past held the position of primary examiner, having in charge the very important class of harvesters. His reputation is universally that of a competent, faithful and efficient officer. He is a *rara avis* in this age of brass, and rings, and general worship of shoddy. General Woodward, of Iowa, a primary examiner, and also an applicant for the vacancy caused by the decease of Mr. Hodges, has been appointed to supersede Hon. R. L. B. Clarke. The political friends of General Woodward are also the political friends of Mr. Clarke. Both are from the same State of Iowa.

It will be remembered that in a former statement the fact was referred to of the removal of Mr. Clarke in November last and misrepresentations of the late ex-Commissioner of Patents, and of his subsequent reinstatement by the action of the Senate. As has been said by a noted politician of the Northwest—a man, by the the way, who has refused a Cabinet position tendered him—it was supposed that this action of the Senate settled that matter. In a conversation concerning this affair last week, the President remarked in so many words that this whole matter must be ungallant to Mrs. Clarke. The President has remitted the whole business of the appointments of Board of Appeals to the Secretary of the Interior, and he must shoulder the responsibility that may be incurred. And it would seem also that the office of Commissioner of Patents and Assistant Commissioner are disposed of in the same manner. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Clarke has offended the Patent Office ring, of which a certain ex-Commissioner of Patents is the head, and so Mr. Clarke has received the cold shoulder, and the order shown by the ring thus serves to intimidate others of lower degree. This business is what the President says must be "raked into," and Woodward is a first-rate man for the place, and so it is very generally conceded. The third man on the Board is Major HOPKINS, who left the army last October. When Mr. Leggett gave notice on the first of October, 1874, that he had resigned, to take effect November 1, 1874, in the early part of October, Mr. Thatcher was appointed Commissioner of Patents, General Spear was promoted from the Board of Appeals to fill the office of Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Hall made vacant by the promotion of Capt. Thatcher, and Major Hopkins was promoted from examiner of interferences to the Board of Appeals. Mr. Hall's record was only for a short time an examiner of interferences, having for a long time been law clerk to Mr. Leggett. The office of law clerk in an important one. It is understood that the decisions of the Commissioner on points of law and the logic of those decisions were generally the product of Mr. Hall's genius. That he must be a man of marked ability. So the Board of Appeals has been entirely changed since October 1, 1874. Every man is certainly well qualified in every instance for his position. The only thing to fear is that they cannot be independent and faithful to their own "true inwardness" while they know that "the power behind the throne" is ready to cast them down "the ragged edge" when they forget to put things where they will "do the most good." All that can be said in favor of the new twenty-two primary examiners in the Patent Office.

J. MCC. PERKINS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 21, 1875.

PROFESSOR BAIRD proposes to make the Government and Smithsonian Institute portion of the Centennial Exhibition a monster side show, of great interest to naturalists, sportsmen and all lovers of life as seen both above and below water. He wishes 5,000 square feet of space, for the exhibition of fish, fishing appliances, and the exposition of breeding at the hatching establishments in this State. There will be exhibited 600 plaster casts of fishes, in imitation of the grade, size and description of each variety. Five thousand additional square feet of space will be asked for the exhibition of animal products. There will be stuffed specimens of every known animal in America. In addition there will be leather made from the hide of each of these animals. He says there are twenty different specimens of seal skins, so we can readily judge of the magnitude of this portion of the exhibition. In addition to this comes a request for 5,000 more square feet of space from the Smithsonian Institute for a display of minerals, which promises to surpass anything of the kind ever seen or heard of before, either in this country or in Europe.

FROM SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI.

Character of the Country—Great Forests—Copper Mining—Iron Ores, &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

ST. LOUIS, May 22, 1875.

I have just returned from a trip through Southeast Missouri, and can't help giving you a short sketch of my journey and what passed under my observation. The counties I passed through were Reynolds, Carter, Oregon, Shannon, Dent, Crawford, Phelps, Wayne, Butler, Bolinger, Madison, Washington, &c., and I must say that I was greatly delighted with the country. I had heard a great deal said about the vast forests of timber in that part of the State, as well as the immense deposits of iron ore; but, in addition to these, I found fine indication of lead in all these counties, and I have also found them mining copper of a very superior quality in Shannon county; and, to my surprise, I found that there had been large copper mines worked there many years ago by a Boston company, but when those large discoveries were made at Lake Superior, they were abandoned for a time, as they had to haul the ore in wagons to the Mississippi river, a distance of over one hundred miles, the expense being so great that they could not compete with the Superior ores. But since railroads are getting through that country, they are opening up their deposits again to a considerable extent, and, beyond doubt, ere long will make that country famous for copper, as it is said to be one of the finest copper fields in the United States—said to be equal to South American, which is the finest in the world.

I will next give you a little sketch of iron ores of these counties. It is perfectly wonderful to see to what extent it exists in this portion of the State. The iron ores are of four different kinds. The first I shall name is the blue specular, the best or richest kind; the ore is so well known, it being the same as the Missouri Iron Mountain, that I need not give its analysis. These blue ores are all about alike wherever they are found, which is in but few counties in this State. Those in which it has been discovered to any extent are, I believe, Iron, Dent, Crawford, Phelps, Pulaski and Sherman. The next species of iron ore in quality found is the red hematite—that is, an ore not quite so rich as the blue specular ores, making an analysis of about sixty-three per cent. metallic iron of a very superior quality, and is generally preferred for furnace purposes to the blue, making a red-short metal, and melting very easily in the furnace. These ores are found in the same localities where the blue is found, with several others in addition, which are Wayne, Butler, Reynolds, Bolinger, Madison, Washington, Oregon and Carter. The next in order as to quality is the brown hematite and pipe ores, which I shall class together, as they are about the same in richness, but in the latter one only being found in few of the counties above named, of which are Reynolds, Shannon, Wayne and Oregon. But of the brown hematite it excells all others in quantity, but is not so rich in metallic iron only giving an analysis of about 58 per cent., the same as the pipe ore; but for all it is not as rich in metallic iron, it can be called the best ore in the State, as it far excells all others put together in quantity, and in the counties of Carter, Shannon, Oregon, Wayne and a portion of Butler, it is found in immense quantities, is found scattered all over the other counties mentioned in places.

As I have given you a short sketch of the mineral wealth of the State, I will now be found as fine forests of pine timber in the counties of Carter, Oregon, Shannon, Reynolds and a portion of Wayne and Butler, as I ever saw in any country. The other counties are not so heavily timbered, and principally white oak with some little pine mixed in places. I couldn't help beholding the great wealth and value of these pine timbered counties had for making charcoal iron, as the pine is of the yellow species, making the very best of charcoal. With abundance of pine timber and iron ore bedded right in their midst, it seems to me charcoal iron ought to be made there for twelve dollars per ton. But lest I weary your patience, I will close by saying, with many others, that Missouri in certainly a great State.

T. B.

POLITICAL.

State.

Hon. Silas M. Clark, of Indiana county, is favorably mentioned for the Democratic Gubernatorial nomination.

Hon. James Ellis, of Pottsville, declines being a candidate for Democratic Convention Gubernatorial honors this fall.

J. B. McCollum, Esq., of Montrose, will probably be the candidate of the Democracy in Susquehanna county for President Judge.

Following is the Democratic ticket nominated in Fayette county, on the 15th inst.: Prothonotary, Joseph M. Oglevee; Register and Recorder, John W. Darby; Treasurer, Christy Artis; Commissioners, Jones Cunningham and John Kilpatrick; Auditors, S. B. Rohamell and W. S. Sisler; Poor Director, David Junk. Dr. R. J. Patton, P. S. Newmeyer and William Playford were elected delegates to the State Convention.

The Clearfield *Republican*, the home Democratic organ of General Bigler, says that "the Governor himself, as we know, whilst deeply grateful to those friends who have honored him by the expression of their preference for him for Governor, emphatically dissents from such use of his name, and does not hesitate to say that he is not a candidate."

The rumor connecting the name of the Hon. William H. Armstrong, of this city, with a probable Cabinet appointment, is revived this week. The position named is the Secretaryship of the Interior. Whatever is being done in behalf of Mr. Armstrong is without any assistance on his part; he is one of the very rare men of this time who shrink from office-seeking, no matter how exalted the position. Should, however, the President desire to put a gentleman of thorough ability and of unimpeachable character in the Interior Department he could accomplish that desire in the appointment of Mr. Armstrong.—*Williamsport Gazette.*

The Philadelphia *Times* says that Pennsylvania is undoubtedly a Republican State by a decided majority, honestly polled in accordance with the political convictions of the people. It has been so since 1858 with but three exceptions—in 1862, 1867 and 1874—and in each instance the Democrats triumphed because Republicans gave "a temporary victory to the enemy to admonish their own party of its errors." For seventeen years, says the *Times*, the Democrats have not polled a majority of the ordinary available vote of the State, and cannot hope to do so. These figures are very discouraging to those who have insisted that Pennsylvania might be counted on as sure to contribute its share of "tidal wave."—*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.*

General.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* considers it a waste of time to speak of Minister Washburne's name in connection with the next Presidency.

"A brilliant villian," is what the editor of a Virginia Democratic organ calls General Sherman. They need a few loyal spelling matches in the Old Dominion.

The Mobile (Ala.) *Register* truthfully says that "men who only lacked Booth's courage to do Booth's deed are gradually becoming masters of the political situation, and of the same progress is made in this direction in the next ten years as has been in the last, it will be a crime to speak of Booth as an assassin or of Lincoln as a patriot."

The Republican party is entitled to the credit of making "crooked" whisky straight and of bringing its manufacturers and their auxiliaries to punishment. The Chicago *Tribune* says: "The Republican administration will receive the honor and the public gratitude not only for suppressing the frauds, but for the instant dismissal of every corrupt official engaged in them."

It is curious that the only political intrusion into the Social Science Congress at Detroit was the work of a Northern man who attacked the negro in the regular Democratic way, and that he should have been met by a Southerner who did justice to the capacities of the negro and rebuked those hopes which the Republicans have formed of his ability and desire to progress.

The Republican party contains all the possibilities of reform; it contains the popular intelligence which demands good government. It contains the bulk of those elements to which statesmanship can appeal with confidence. It is the only party that holds out to the great American manhood a way for taking a manly, intelligent and independent part in the great business of government by the people.—*Cincinnati Gazette (Rep.).*

The third-party movement in California, which was so successful two years ago, in the State campaign on railroad and other local issues, and secured Booth's election to the United States Senate, is to be tried again this year. At this time and distance it looks as though the Independent party stood little chance of success, and that the contest would be between the two leading parties. The Sacramento *Union*, which has been the leader of the Independent faction, has been merged with the *Record*, the Republican organ of the State, which deprives the Independents of a powerful ally, and many of the Republicans who were in the movement have gone back to the old organization, realizing the nature of the approaching contest. The guerilla in politics is not a popular feature of the coming canvass.

THE Birmingham (Alabama) *Iron Age* speaks out as follows: "We bring railroad and other iron from Pennsylvania and England. Yes, from England we bring iron rails. They are made from ore containing forty per cent. of iron. They are brought three thousand miles across the ocean, and then transported many hundreds of miles by land, at a heavy cost, into Alabama. After it reaches here, in order to lay it in a railroad bed, we scientally dig up and remove ore which contains twenty per cent. more iron than that from which the rail was made in England."

THE BUENA VISTA RIOT.

Charles H. Armstrong and Fred. Guescetti On Trial—The Court Overrules the Motion to Quash—The Trial Proceeds—Testimony for the Commonwealth—Evidence as to Both Sides Preparing for a Bloody Conflict, Etc., Etc.

The case of the Commonwealth against Charles H. Armstrong and Fred. Guescetti, who are indicted in the Court of Quarter Sessions of Westmoreland county for aggravated riot, was called up Friday morning.

The following is a list of counsel in the case: For the Commonwealth, District Attorney D. T. Harvey and Frank Cowan; for Armstrong and Guescetti, Hon. H. D. Foster, H. P. Laird, A. A. Stewart, James A. Hunter, J. G. Woods, Lieutenant Governor Latta, E. J. Keenan and John Wentling.

Mr. Foster called up the motion made by him, on Wednesday, to quash the indictment.

Mr. Laird declined to enter a plea to the indictment, on the ground that the prosecutor's name was not endorsed upon the indictment, and that the defendants were compelled to give evidence before the Grand Jury. This fact was entered upon the record.

Mr. Foster then argued at some length the motion to quash. He claimed that it was illegal for the Grand Jury to compel the defendants to testify and to make this the grounds for an indictment without a preliminary hearing before a magistrate.

Mr. Harvey replied that Mr. Armstrong was a witness before the Grand Jury at his own instance. Mr. Cowan also submitted answers to the various points urged by counsel for defendants.

Mr. Laird claimed that the Grand Jury had overstepped their authority in finding a bill of indictment upon outside their personal knowledge. Either a bench warrant should have issued, or an information been made, before the finding of a bill of indictment. Otherwise it would be a star chamber proceeding.

Judge Logan thought the question of the right of the Grand Jury to prepare bills of indictment was pretty well settled. That left the single question raised by the defense that the defendants were called before the Grand Jury. Court was of the opinion that the Grand Jury had the right to call these witnesses, have the presentment on their testimony and find the indictment, which was simply a mere formal presentment.

The law point raised having been decided against the defendants, at eleven o'clock a jury was empaneled.

Mr. Laird stated that under the law the defense had only had four challenges and that the jurors summoned were nearly all residents of the section of the county where the riots occurred. The following jury was selected: Robert Osborne, Daniel Crow, Leonard Hunker, John Byerley, James Pryor, John Smith, Reuben Alshouse, John R. Kurtz, James Watson, James Piper, Hezekiah Row, John Butlan.

Lieutenant Governor Latta presented the affidavit of Frederick Guescetti, setting forth that defendant had been compelled to appear before the Grand Jury and was required to answer certain questions, which should have been passed, criminating himself, the questions being asked by a sworn member of the Grand Jury, and that his wife was compelled to testify in a similar manner.

District Attorney Harvey said that nothing of the kind had occurred while he was present before the Grand Jury, and he thought he could produce jurors who would make affidavits to this fact.

Pending the consideration of the question raised by the affidavit, court took a recess until half past one o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

On the reassembling of court, Judge Logan announced that after examination of legal authorities he had